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THE
SCHOOL FOR FASHION,
IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY MRS. THICKNESSE.

Vice is a Monster of so frightful Mien,
As, to be hated, needs but to be seen;
Ye: seen too oft', familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

POPE.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

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DEDICATION.

DEDICATION.

TO FASHION.

THE usual object of Dedications is to display the virtues, talents, genius, and dignity of the person to whose patronage and protection the Author is graciously permitted to address his work; with the hope, either implied or expressed, that the sanction of a great, illustrious or honoured name may recommend his labours to the

b notice

notice and approbation of the public at large.

I shall, however, adopt a different and rather uncommon mode of proceeding; I shall not dedicate these volumes to any leading person in the fashionable world, the elegance of whose manners, the variety of whose accomplishments, the splendor of whose taste, and the confidence of whose mind, has made her an object of general attention and imitation;---no; ---I shall dedicate them to FASHION HERSELF, and, instead of endeavouring to conciliate favour and patronage by the seducing

ducing power of adulation, by gilded falsehood and flattering misrepresentation, I shall endeavour to deserve, if I do not obtain, protection, by unfolding the follies, indecorums, vices and crimes of my patroness.

I therefore declare, Madam, that you are at this moment employed and occupied in the introduction of those manners and that profligacy, which brought on the ruin of a neighbouring kingdom, have involved Europe in all the miseries that now oppress it, and, if suffered to advance to maturity, will shortly corrupt, and in the end annihilate

late the boasted virtue and honour of Great Britain.

There never was a period, and I assert it, fearless of contradiction, though with an aching heart, when your influence was so baneful to morals, so obnoxious to honour, and so hostile to domestic happiness as in the day that is passing over us. But though I cannot allow you one solitary good quality, I am ready to do you justice by acknowledging your genius, however misapplied, and your penetration, however ill directed.

You

You well know that men, from the nature of their occupations, from the objects which they pursue, and the passions that govern them, are not altogether subject to your controul ; it is, therefore, to the women, and to the men who resemble women, that you direct your peculiar and insidious attentions.

You well know the potency of female influence in an high state of civilized society.

In short, you well know, that if you can enslave, or in other words, if you can corrupt the women ; if you can infuse into the female character a fanatical disposition

x DEDICATION.

disposition to attend upon your Altars, your reign will be secure, and your dominion supreme.

Hence it is, that you employ so much art to influence the higher orders of the female world, from the cradle to the grave. Hence it is, that you superintend female Education, from a state of infancy to the grand epocha of being presented at Court. Hence it is, that you conduct your votaries through various scenes of gaiety, display, and dissipation, to the Altar; and from thence, through all the negligence of maternal duties, and the indulgence of matured passions,

passions, to the final resources of cards, or devotion: for in some cafes,

“ Vous donnez à Dieu les restes du Diable.”

Your original power was confined to the labours of the loom, and the toil and taste of milliners and mantua-makers; to the shape and colour of upholstery, and the exterior decoration of the useful apparatus of life; and, while you confined yourself to these objects, your office was at last inoffensive and innocent. It can be of little consequence to morality, Religion, and general manners, whether women

wear

wear large hats, or small hats, whether their waists are long or short, or whether they chuse to wear wigs or their own hair. Such arrangements do not deserve a serious consideration : but when you presume to dictate, or rather destroy, principles and influence manners ; when you take upon you to occupy the place of reason and experience ; when you assume the province of forming character, the consequences become very alarming and dangerous to the health, the virtue and happiness of the female world.

In

In your progress to complete the conversion which you have in view, you exert all your endeavours to undermine those qualities which must prove the great obstacle to your designs. You have, indeed, been for some time, most wickedly active, and fatally successful, in banishing modesty from your circles --- Hence it is, that the fashionable young women of the present day, indulge themselves in a mode of conversation, a latitude of expression and a freedom of demeanour, which the courtesan of a former period would have blushed to practise. ----

Hence it is, that we find elegant, high-born girls of sixteen in possession of all the knowledge which they ought not to know, and their grandmothers never appeared to have known! This is the first step to profligacy, because a want of modesty, in the single state, leads, rather readily, to the sacrifice of chastity in the married character.

Dress may run through all its variations, from simplicity to gaudiness, from splendor to the fantastic, without any violation of decorum or moral duty; but the present mode of appearance,

pearance, which is adopted by many persons in superior life, is a very high degree of immorality, because it is indecent and immodest; because it is a shameless defiance and contempt of those qualities, which are considered by reason and Religion, as the brightest ornaments of the female character. There is, indeed, little doubt, if one of those unhappy women, who have abandoned themselves, or been abandoned by their seducers, to prostitution, were to appear in any public place, in that shocking, half-clothed state, in which so many

women of rank present themselves to fashionable assemblies, that she would risk a submission to the penalties of Bridewell.

The time was, when you were nothing more than the regulating minister of the forms and exterior appearance of those ranks in life which require a moderate attention to them. You then possessed a useful influence to which a submission might be practised without inconvenience or dishonour.---- But the time now is, when you are become the school-mistress of vice and immorality, when

DEDICATION.

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when the Dæmon of impudence
is your idol, and when the
paths, in which you conduct
your disciples, lead to profligacy,
to ruin and a premature se-
pulchre.

But though your power, I fear,
is increasing, there is, I doubt
not, still remaining a sufficient
stock of virtue, which, if brought
into exertion, would not only
check but destroy it. During
that season which our Church
has set apart for a more particu-
lar review of our spiritual state
and condition, the parish church
of St. James has been weekly
crouded, to inconvenience, with
persons,

persons, and particularly women, of rank, wealth and distinction, to hear an eloquent, learned and pious Prelate expound the principles of Christianity, enforce its duties, display the celestial inheritance which awaits the good, and denounce the punishment which will one day tread on the heels of transgression. His labours, and the example of other distinguished persons, will, I trust, arrest you in your wicked career. Nor am I without the hope, that the following pages, humble and inferior as they are, and must be, will be found to aid the cause of virtue; that

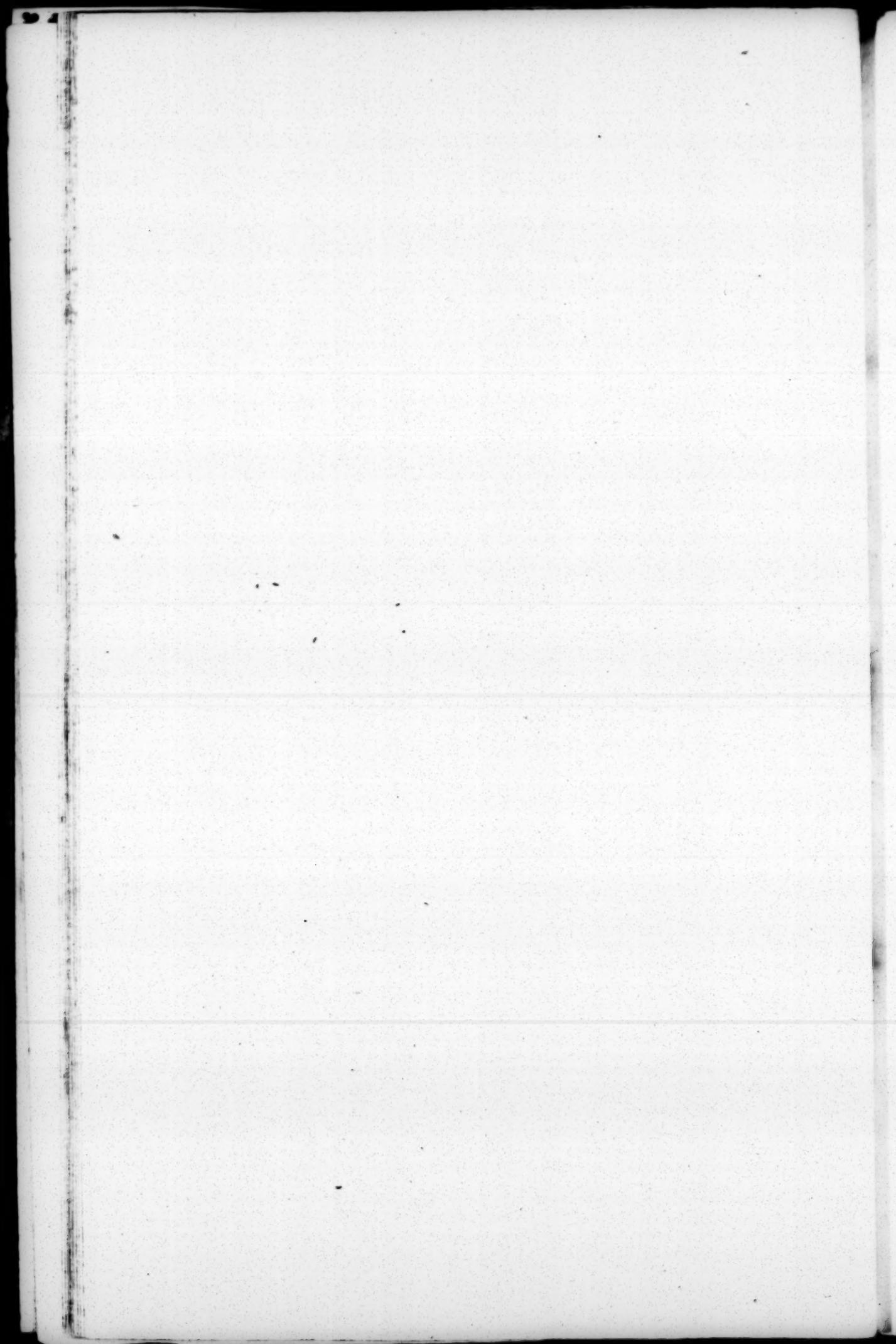
DEDICATION.

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that they will tend to diminish
your abominable influence, to
restore the reign of decency,
decorum and good morals, and
promote a saving sense of ho-
nour, virtue and Religion, among
the female youth of my country.

A. T.

INTRODUCTION.



THE
INTRODUCTION.

ALTHOUGH this crude performance is announced to the world, under the title of a *Novel*, yet, the female reader, must not expect to find pathetic tales of love, marvelous prodigies, or even those elegant flights of fancy, which are so apt to delight, and captivate the *unformed* mind. No, it consists only (a few moral reflections excepted) of plain simple FACTS, but indif-

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ferently told ; still, however, it has one merit, which with *some* readers, will give it perhaps, a value, even in preference to a *fiction*, however finely imagined, although it be decorated with all the flowers of language, the sentimental descriptions of a **YORIC**, or the refined and elegant expressions of a **BURNEY**'s pen ! It has **PLAIN TRUTH**, only, without the least ornament to recommend it, and though it may fail in giving the reader *entertainment*, yet, it may probably serve to instruct some lovely girl, to avoid the dangers to which youth and innocence are so often exposed, and also to convince her, that there is not that stress to be laid, on what is called the *first company*, as the idea seems to convey ! The fact is, a young woman risques her fame, who is ambitious to associate with

with the **GREAT**,* as it requires peculiar strength of mind to resist the temptations, that are perpetually thrown in her way by the men ; but still more, to guard herself against being betrayed into vice or folly, by the women, who are (generally speaking) more corrupt ; for there is no *mediocrity* in women, as in men ; they are either much **SUPERIOR**, or, infinitely **WORSE** ! A *man*, though a libertine of the most debauched

* It is to be observed, we mean *only* such young women, who (without the advantages of high birth or fortune) have nothing to recommend them to the notice of those, who move in a higher sphere, but their talents, or personal beauty ; and not being *considered* upon an *equality* with their superiors, are seldom regarded in any other light, than as being able to contribute to their entertainment, and often-times made to submit to still more painful humiliations ! For, as a celebrated writer has observed, “ *disproportioned* friendships, ever terminate in *dissension* !”

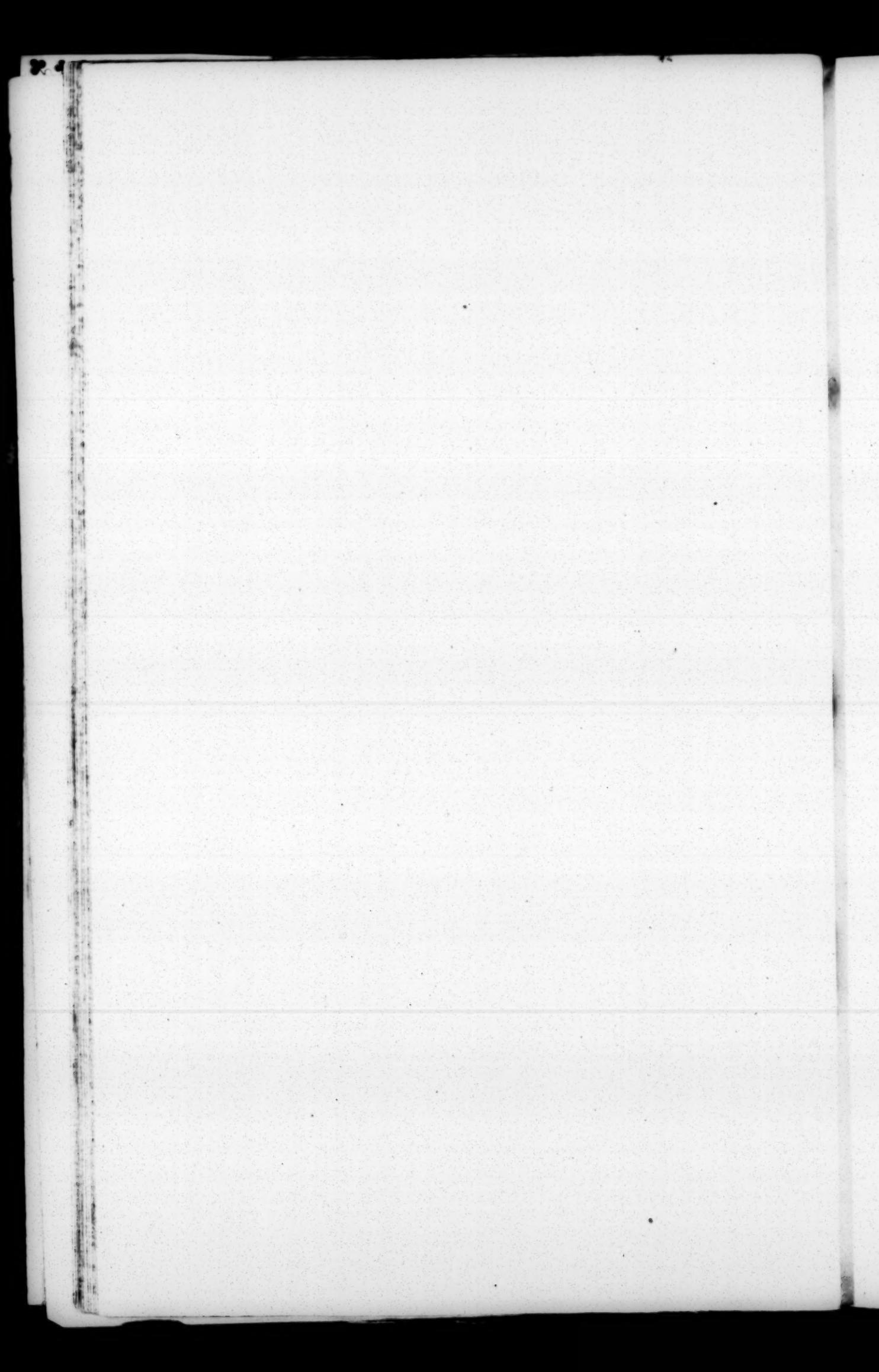
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principles, has been found to possess *some* good qualities, but, a *woman*, once lost to MODESTY, and VIRTUE, (the greatest ornaments that can adorn the sex) is irrecoverably gone: and to add yet further to the number of her crimes, her guilty soul still prompts her on to destroy the peace and fame of other females, by endeavouring to corrupt *their* minds, and bring them on a level with herself, and too often succeeds in this diabolical attempt, by *laughing* a young woman out of that amiable bashfulness, which she herself, no longer possesses!

No virtuous and amiable woman will be offended at what is here advanced, and as to women of any other description, it matters not.

The candid, and *unprejudiced* reader alone, is humbly entreated to
pardon

pardon the numberless errors which the Authoress is but too conscious she has let drop from her pen; but as she is only actuated by virtuous motives, and being desirous of exposing to ridicule and contempt, those vices, and follies, which are daily encreasing to the utter disgrace of human nature, she flatters herself, she shall not be thought to merit censure, although she should fail of entire approbation.



CHAP. I.

A DESCRIPTION OF BON TON HALL, AND
THE PROPRIETORS OF THAT DELIGHT-
FUL MANSION.

BEFORE we enter into a detail of the remarkable events which happened at Bon Ton Hall, the seat of Sir William Bon Ton, we will endeavour to give the reader an idea of the amiable proprietor of that beautiful mansion. With an handsome person, Sir William possessed a most captivating address, was perfectly well bred, with an engaging disposition, which delighted in making every one happy about him. In this desire to please, he seldom failed, for he was universally beloved by those who had the honour of being known to him; but as it is impossible

sible for mortal man to be perfect, Sir William had his faults, but they were such as by no means proceeded either from a vicious or depraved heart ; on the contrary, it was his natural generosity, hospitality, and benevolence, which led him into expences, that in prudence he ought most certainly to have avoided. But, nevertheless, if he had possessed a *discreet* wife who had centered her own happiness in that of her husband's, he might have indulged his taste for splendour, without injury to his fortune ; but his Lady was a different kind of Being ; she imitated all her husband's foibles, without giving one specimen of his many virtues ! *Her* extravagance was beyond all bounds, her love of finery and magnificence was, indeed, equal to her husband's, but then *her* heart was corrupt ; *her* pursuits were riotous pleasures, without employing the rational means of procuring solid happiness either to herself or others ; her person was small and well proportioned, pretty features, and a small well shaped head, which was ornamented

ornamented with a profusion of fine hair (all natural) plaited *à la Romain*; she affected the foreign manners, and copied their *franchise*, but without their politeness or those *petits agréments*, so bewitching in a *well-bred* French woman; her manners were rather vulgar than elegant, and yet she was not altogether destitute of the powers of pleasing, and if she had never seen the *Continent* she would have made a better wife; for it is certainly true that an *English* woman, unless she possesses strength of mind, a good understanding, a right idea of honour and virtue, and is likewise under the influence of a man of sense who knows the world, and, moreover, *how* to govern the actions of his wife, she will return home a coxcomb both in dress and manners, and at least her *moral*s corrupted, if not her *person*.— This bold assertion, though it may seem severe, is nevertheless but too true; the possibility of which will be made to appear in the sequel of this little history.

The magnificent mansion where this couple resided was situated on a rising ground, which commanded *not* an extensive, but a pleasing prospect, with a picturesque view of the adjacent country. A noble avenue led to the house, on each side of which was a delightful shrubbery, planted with aromatics, which shed its rich perfumes around the whole domain. On the other side was a very extensive and beautiful lawn gradually sloping towards a wilderness of large extent, at the bottom of which ran a small rivulet, the soft murmurs of which added to the pleasures of this pastoral scene. Such was the spot where Sir William wished to blend the magnificence of ART, with the enchanting beauties of NATURE.

Sir William having proposed to treat his friends with a theatrical entertainment, he mentioned his intentions to *Roscius*, with whom he was not only upon terms of the most friendly intimacy, but for whose picture he had just given an hundred

dred guineas, in the character of Hamlet. He intreated him to assist him with a few stage dresses for the *men only*; upon which the celebrated *Roscivus*, who did not always play the part of a *gentleman* so well *off* as *on* the stage, began to make some difficulties, and had the meanness even to hint to Sir W. that it would be infinitely better, as it was for a private theatrical, that they should be entirely new, and that when Sir W. had done with them he would willingly purchase them of him for what they might be appraised!!—The astonishment of the Baronet may be easier conceived than described; but he shewed no other resentment than by turning indignantly from him with those feelings of contempt which the *little man* so justly merited; and mentioning the circumstance to Mr. F. whom he met with soon after, Mr. F. said he was not at all surprised, knowing him to be incapable of **GREAT** actions, but *on* the stage; but, continued he, come along with me, and I will introduce you to Rich, who is as liberal in

his manner of thinking as the other is mean. Accordingly Rich not only received Sir William with every mark of the most polite attention, but generously sent him all the paraphernalia necessary for the performance of JULIUS CÆSAR.

Sir William having purchased some beautiful scenes for the occasion, he set off immediately to his country seat to make the necessary preparations.

CHAP. II.

GREAT PREPARATIONS MADE FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF JULIUS CÆSAR ;— LADY BON TON GREATLY MORTIFIED UPON FINDING A RIVAL IN EUTERPE.

THE Reader may easily form some idea of the gay scene which already begins to present itself to his view—the assembling so numerous a company, many of whom were to perform in the play :

play : a number of musicians of the very first class, the rehearsals, the making up of rich dresses for the Ladies who performed, (some of whom were of high rank) the bustle and confusion of workmen, artists, &c. with servants, carriages, horses, &c. all entertained for many weeks, in a most princely style. As near as we can recollect, there were not less than seventy *rational* Beings in the house! The table covered twice a day with a profusion of delicacies, the most expensive wines, and every other luxury and refinement that could possibly be thought of to please the sense of *mortal man* ! The grand saloon was turned into a theatre ; and, in short we might add, that the whole house was turned *up-side-down* ! All the company who were invited to the play were received at the door of the small saloon, where there was a table most elegantly covered with refreshments that the noble auditors might feast *before* the drawing up of the curtain. The two youngest visitors, Selina and Euterpe, were

were both of them appointed to receive the company, as *their* parts in the play did not come on till the fourth act.— Euterpe perceiving Lord B. at the door she went up to him, when, seeing an ill-dressed shabby looking woman, with a tucked up linen gown, and a little rusty black bonnet, endeavouring to come in, she shut the door in her face, taking her for a beggar-woman, upon which Lord B. exclaimed, good God! Euterpe, what are you doing? do not you know that you are shutting the door upon the Duchess of Q.? however, her Grace laughed it off with great good humour; yet Euterpe could not help making her comments upon the impertinent airs of some of these great people; for it was *vanity*, not rudeness, that made her Grace affect a *mean* dress: she thought her rank alone sufficient to gain respect and attention from the gaping multitude, without the trifling aid of dress. All this might have done very well *when* she was *young* and *handsome*, but with an *old wrinkled* face

it

it will never do. All the rest of the company, which consisted of the first nobility in the county, were dressed in the most sumptuous style, and it was allowed by all present that there never was seen a private theatre which made a more splendid appearance than did that of Bon Ton Hall.—The play was got up with great *eclat*, which was followed by the farce of the **DEVIL TO PAY**, in which Euterpe played the part of Lady Loverule; the magnificence of whose dress was what could never be equalled on a *public* theatre, for she appeared in all the *real* and costly jewels which had just before ornamented the persons of a **CALPHURNIA** and a **PORCIA**.

A few days previous to the performing of **JULIUS CÆSAR**, Lady Bon Ton took an airing upon the downs, accompanied by her two youngest visitors, whom she informed, that Lord Wilton was that day to dine with her; and continued her Ladyship, “as neither of you have ever
“seen him, I would have you take care,
“Miffes

“ Misses, and guard your hearts, and do
 “ not think of setting your caps at him,
 “ for his Lordship does not care to have
 “ any thing to say to the *Misses*, he likes
 “ to flirt only with *married* women ; he
 “ finds that less trouble ; besides you have
 “ no chance I assure you, Ladies, now
 “ Mrs. Stately is come, whose fine neck
 “ will eclipse us all.”—

“ Young as I was,” (says Euterpe) “ I
 “ confess I felt shocked at such an inde-
 “ cent speech, and from a *married* wo-
 “ man too!!” Lord Wilton frequently
 dined at Bon Ton Hall, and as often joined
 the *married* Ladies in that kind of conver-
 sation, which could not fail of putting the
Misses to the blush ! This may, perhaps,
 astonish such as are unacquainted with
 the manner in which *some* great people
 pass their time ; but it is most certain,
 that the virtue to be found among
 mankind, is chiefly to be met with
 among the *middle* class. The excessive
 luxury of those in high stations, and the
 extreme poverty and ignorance of the
 lower

lower ranks, is undoubtedly the chief cause of that depravity. Although Lady Bon Ton had taken the *wise* precaution of advising the two *Miffes* to guard *their* hearts from being captivated with the person and address of the noble Earl, who was, at that time, thought to be one of the handsomest men in England; yet the most important point of all she did not once think of, which was, to *caution* the Earl, also, to take no notice of the *Miffes*! But as her Ladyship's ill stars would have it, the Earl, upon the first night of the play, followed the *actresses* into the drawing room, when, stepping up to Mrs. Stately, who was sitting with Euterpe on the settee, he begged of her to make room for him, that he might be permitted to sit between them; upon which he took an opportunity of complimenting Euterpe on her performance, shewed her great attention, and conversed with her the whole time he staid. This so highly provoked Lady B. that the whole

room took notice of her ill humour. She would scarcely speak with common civility to Euterpe, and behaved so ill that Euterpe informed Sir William she would accompany her father to town the next day. Sir William was thunder struck, not only at the ill conduct of his wife, whose rude behaviour he had remarked, but to lose a principal *actress* when the play was to be performed again in three nights, was a disappointment he was not prepared for ! He begged and prayed of her to alter her resolution. Euterpe found it impossible to resist the entreaties of Sir William, she therefore consented to stay till the performance was over, when she resolved to take her leave for ever of Bon Ton Hall---Lady B. who still continued rather gloomy, was destined to undergo another trial, in which she betrayed a jealousy of Euterpe that both astonished and disgusted all who had penetration to perceive it ! A card of invitation came from Lord and Lady Wil-

ton to Sir William and his Lady, to spend the day at Wilton House, with as many of their party as chose to honour Lord and Lady Wilton with their company, and begged that Euterpe would also favour them with hers.—As soon as Sir William had read the card, Lady B. with anger flashing from her eyes, exclaimed, “I am sure, Sir William, you have made a mistake, it is not Euterpe, but Selina, that is meant;” “nay,” says Sir William, “’tis plain enough written, and do you think, my dear, that Lord Wilton did not know what he wrote?” But even after her Ladyship had perused the contents herself, she still obstinately persisted in it that it was *not* Euterpe, but Selina whom he *meant!* Every one then read the card in their turn, and all the company gave it against her Ladyship, declaring it as *their* opinion, that it was Euterpe who was invited.—

Euterpe, greatly piqued at the marked rudeness of Lady B. desired her Ladyship not to make herself uneasy, for she did

not intend to go, as she wished rather to stay at home, to recruit her spirits after the fatigue of dancing, acting, &c. upon which the father of Euterpe added, that he would not give *his* consent to her going till Lord Wilton explained *which* of the young Ladies he *meant*, and hinted his intention of riding over to Wilton, to have the matter determined.---Lady B. who dreaded this dispute coming to the ears of the Countess, was thrown into some confusion, and also got a little rebuked by her husband. *Satiricus*, one of the guests, who was a man of wit and humour, fang and accompanied himself with his fingers upon the table, during the above dispute, which helped to enrage her Ladyship ten times more; upon which she flounced out of the room in the utmost fury, followed by Sir William, who, most likely found some difficulty in putting his *Porcia* into good humour again!—However, the next day Sir William prevailed upon Mr. F. and his daughter to be of their party to Lord Wilton's, to which they

they both politely acquiesced, when peace and harmony was again restored to all the party at Bon Ton Hall.

C H A P. III.

A N INFALLIBLE CHARM, TO MAKE A TRIAL OF MENS' AFFECTIONS.

THAT we may not be thought to advance *that* which we are unable to *prove*, we will introduce an anecdote of Lady Bon Ton, which cannot fail to convince the reader (however *partial* he might be to her Ladyship) that her manners were *vulgar*, and her morals *corrupt*. The following trait will most probably prove the justice of such an assertion:—One morning, after breakfast, when most of the Gentlemen were gone out upon a shooting party, Lady B. desired her nephew to go to the dove-house and kill half a dozen pigeons, and bring their hearts

hearts to her.—Lord, madam, what for?—what is that to you, you fool! go, do as I bid you.—The astonished youth did as he was commanded, and returned with them on a plate.—Now, says her Ladyship, each of you Ladies take a heart and stick it full of pins; then put them into the fire, and, as they *consume*, your lovers will feel the most excruciating pain, by which you will be able to prove how much they love you.—Horrid woman, thought Euterpe, to put the man to torment by whom we are loved!—If she really was weak enough to *believe* that this *charm* could produce the above effect, we must pronounce her to be a *wicked* woman; and if she did *not* believe it, her conduct was silly and childish! — Mrs. Stately, who was a woman of good sense, and possessed of many amiable qualities, declared she would have nothing to do with such superstitious nonsense, and retired with her usual dignity into her own apartment. Lady H her sister, Selina, and Euterpe then followed Lady B. up stairs,

stairs, and went into a small room, but seldom occupied, to perform these horrid rites!—"Whilst," says Euterpe, "we were thus employed in this *infernal* operation, she informed us it was *necessary* to be quite silent, and not to speak one word during the time the hearts were in the fire, till they were entirely consumed.—But no sooner" (continued Euterpe) "did our altar begin to smoke, then there arose such a smother that we could scarcely stay in the room to finish what we had so *laudably* begun; but the smell was so strong and offensive, that it brought up Sir William, who, not finding any of the Ladies in their own apartments, called out as loud as he could, 'where are all the Ladies? what the devil are you all about? for there is such a hellish stink in the house that I am almost suffocated, and I insist upon it that you open the door, or else I will break it open!' for by this time his nose had informed him where we were all assembled! Every one was silent

“ silent for fear of spoiling the *charm*; but
“ one of the Misses, who, depending
“ more upon *her own charms*, was not so
“ very anxious about the fate of only
“ *one* little heart, ventured to speak; and
“ in hopes of pacifying the Baronet,
“ told him it was only a little frolic
“ with which the Ladies were diverting
“ themselves: begged he would have the
“ goodness to retire, and promised that
“ he should be informed of the whole
“ matter by Lady Bon Ton.—The angry
“ Baronet walked away, muttering and
“ grumbling every step he went, but,
“ how the Ladies got off, I cannot now
“ recollect.”

CHAP. IV.

A NOCTURNAL ADVENTURE, WHICH
THREATENED TO PRODUCE THE MOST
SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES! — EUTERPE
GETS HERSELF REBUKED FOR HAVING
PREVENTED IT FROM SUCCEEDING!

HAVING set out with a full determination to “*tell no falsehood, and no truth suppress,*” the Authoress thinks herself in honour bound to fulfill her intentions; and though she may feel a delicacy arising within her own bosom, when she is about to relate events which might wound the feelings of others; she will not (however painful the task) be withheld from developing the following fact, though she may be induced *cautiously to conceal*, beneath a veil, the parties concerned; that they may not have reason to feel the least terror on

having those scenes laid open and revived, which ought for ever to be cast into oblivion!—Fear not, amiable Selina, we will be as delicate of thy fame as the recording Angel will be just.—But do you not oft times shudder at the imminent danger you were in?—The narrow escape you had? The risque you ran!! —possessed of beauty sufficient to overturn the philosophy of a wiser man than!—But it is not a wish to betray the youthful foibles of those who were *led into error* at an age in which indiscretion ought to find pardon: it is our wish only to lay open, and expose to censure, the base conduct of those whose DUTY it was to have PROTECTED YOUTH, VIRTUE, and INNOCENCE !!

When every bed was occupied by the numerous guests who were on a visit at Bon Ton Hall, Miss — was obliged to lay upon a soffa in Lady B.'s dressing-room. Euterpe, being ignorant of this circumstance, and seeing the door wide open as she was passing by to her own chamber,
went

went in, as it was often her custom to do, to amuse herself with looking over the pictures, and a great variety of beautiful curiosities with which that room was embellished; and perceiving no candle, she could have no idea of any person being there; she had advanced towards the toilet, before she perceived that the sofa was made into a bed;—but what was her surprise, when she found Miss — in the arms of —!! She screamed out violently, and ran out of the room deaf to the entreaties of the lovers, who begged her not to betray them. But her fright, as well as indignation, prompted her to call out loudly to Sir William, who, with all the gentlemen that were in the supper room, flew up stairs into the dressing room, before the lover had time to depart; the ladies, who were most of them in their night cloaths, flocked immediately into the room; Sir William seemed greatly shocked (for she was nearly related to him) and was at first, very severe with —, who endeavoured to

laugh it off as an *innocent* frolic, saying,
“ Upon my soul, Sir William, I meant
“ no harm, you see I am quite dressed,
“ all but my coat and shocs.” Sir Wil-
liam was then *obliged* to pretend to laugh
it off also, for there was no alternative;
he must have either *feigned* to look on it
as a jest, or have called him out! In this
manner men are often times embarrassed
through the indiscretions of thoughtless
females!— But the ladies seemed out-
rageously angry with Euterpe, for hav-
ing (as they said) raised such a disturbance
and uproar in the house, particularly
Lady H. who, *good naturally* observed, that
she was very sure that Mr. —, meant
no harm, did you —? and, continued
she, there was no occasion for Euterpe,
to have been so very officious.— The
infamous conduct of the married women
in being angry with Euterpe, whom they
ought rather to have thanked as the fa-
vour of the young lady’s honour, would
be almost incredible to those, who are un-
acquainted with the characters and con-
duct

duct of *such kind* of females to which TON and FASHION are so highly indebted : but to give the true reason why Lady H. was more exasperated against Euterpe (on whom she bestowed many ill-natured sarcasms) than any of the other ladies, was owing to a little grudge she owed that young lady for having very innocently discovered to the world, that her ladyship was not altogether without *her play-fellow* too ! which was detected in the following manner.— Captain —, a man of sense and honour, and who had often appeared greatly disgusted with the levity and improper conduct of some of the *married* ladies, saw Euterpe sitting alone in the drawing room, at near one o'clock in the morning, when almost every one had retired to their own chambers ; after expressing his surprise, he asked her the reason, of her not going to bed ? She felt rather embarrassed to tell the reason, but he insisted upon knowing why ; “ It is “ more agreeable to me,” said Euterpe, “ to be here alone than up stairs, for I
“ cannot

" cannot go to bed whilst there is a man
" in the room;" you astonish me, replied
Capt. ——, what man? Who is it you
mean? Do explain yourself! " it is (said
" Euterpe) Mr. B.— he always comes in
" every night with Lady H. who, with her
" sister, lays in the same room with me;
" and I am obliged to sit there, sometimes
" near an hour, whilst Lady H. and Mr. B.
" are romping;" good God, exclaimed the
Captain, what a pack of b.....s there are
in this house! by G-d, I will inform Sir
William that his house is become a mere
b....l! Come along with me, I will soon
make him leave the room, take my word
for it; so taking Euterpe under his
arm, he went, with a very full counte-
nance, into the bed chamber, where he
found Lady H. and her play fellow at
romps upon the bed! whilst her demure-
eyed sister was undressing at the toilet!!
So, says Lady H. (in a sneering manner)
I see you have brought your *Cecilbeo* with
you; no, madam, replied the Captain an-
grily, I am not come as Euterpe's *Cecilbeo*,
but

but as her guard and protector ; what do you mean by that sir ? says Lady H.— I mean, madam, that it is very hard upon Euterpe, that she cannot be suffered to go to bed at one o'clock in the morning, fatigued as she is with dancing : who hinders her, pray ? “ why, how can I (says “ Euterpe) possible undress, madam, “ whilst Mr. B. is in the room ? ” Lord, child, you are mighty delicate sure ; why can't you draw the screen round your bed ? you need not be under any apprehensions, there is no body here, I assure you, that will interrupt you, or trouble their heads about you. Lady H. was so provoked with the Captain and Euterpe, that she never after was thoroughly reconciled to them. This discovery, added to the above mentioned nocturnal adventure, made many of the guests rather more reserved towards each other than they had been heretofore, and of course lessened that confidence and harmony, which so greatly helps to contribute to the pleasure and happiness of society.

CHAP. V.

THE PEDLAR, THOUGH A JEW, IN GREAT
DANGER OF BEING OUTWITTED BY
LADY BON TON.—A DISCOVERY OF THE
PRIVY PURSE.

ONE morning when all the Ladies were assembled together in the library, a servant informed them that there was a pedlar at the door who asked permission to shew the Ladies the contents of his pack, and that he had also got some India silks: India silks! exclaimed Lady B. most certainly we will see *them*! I suppose (continued she) that some of you Ladies will be tempted to make a purchase; for my part I think them the most beautiful summer dresses that can possibly be imagined, they are so light and flowing, and shew the shape to the highest advantage: but the Ladies were all against the man being admitted, as they observed it was

was a pity to make him undo his pack, as none of them chose to become purchasers.

Well (says Lady B.) if you do not chuse to buy any, that's nothing, let us toss over his silks by all means, it will serve *pour passer le tems*; so (turning to her servant) ordered the *fellow* to come in.—Presently in comes the Jew, whose black beard and meagre phiz served to employ, for some time, the risible faculties of the Ladies.—

The poor wretch could scarcely be allowed sufficient time to unpack his load from the impatience of the Ladies, who were for *cutting* the cords, which the more prudent Jew chose to *untye*. The tables and chairs were presently covered with a variety of *eye-traps*, many of which were eagerly purchased by some of the Ladies; the *India* silks, however, were the most irresistible; but being the most expensive also, there were very few purchasers: but before any one had the liberty to make a choice, Lady B. seized *two* of the pieces, one a rose colour and the other a buff, which she ordered

the *fellow* to unfold from one end to the other, to see whether there was any spot or stain in the silk ; observing to the Jew, that if they were not *smuggled* goods, they could not have been his property ; unless they were some *damaged* articles thrown a-side by the mercers ; therefore (said she) I expect to have them a very good bargain. It was rather a diverting scene to see the pains this *Christian* Lady took to outwit the Jew ; but as there was not a spot or the least blemish upon either of the silks (which was more than any one could have said of her Ladyship) he asked an high price, which caused a long altercation, in which *cunning Isaac* got the better ; and her Ladyship was obliged to be contented with *one* of the pieces instead of both. But the greatest difficulty was yet to come, being under a dilemma, not knowing *which* of the two pieces to chuse ! She consulted the Ladies, then next, the looking glass to determine her choice, and, at laft, fixed upon the buff, the rose colour being thought to *kill* the complexion.

plexion. Whilst the poor *itinerant* was doing up his pack again, Lady B. went up stairs for money to pay him, but hearing her husband's voice in the hall, she ran down again, calling out to him "I
 " am glad you are come in, for I have
 " bought the prettiest silk you ever beheld,
 " and I beg you will give me some money
 " to pay for it." "Good God! Betty,
 " what did you buy silk for (says he) 'when
 " you have got already such a quantity of
 " clothes?' "That is true, my dear," (replied her Ladyship) "but this is an *Indian buff*;
 " I might not be able to meet with so good
 " a bargain for a long time, therefore
 " thought it was best to make sure of it
 " now." "Well," (says Sir William) "how
 " much does it come to? "Why" (says she) "that and a few other trifles, come
 " to eight guineas." "I have not," (replied he) "so much in the house; I
 " have only three guineas in my pocket;" which, throwing upon the table with great emotion, he walked off, and her Ladyship after him, into the garden, where

there seemed to pass that kind of conversation which is not uncommon between a man and his wife, whose sentiments do not always coincide!—But as what Sir William had given her was by no means enough for the purpose, she was obliged once more to go to her own *privy purse*, which there was much reason to suppose her husband knew nothing of. The pedlar being in haste to be gone, one of the young Ladies was sent up to Lady B. to inform her, that the man was very impatient, and rather out of humour at being kept so long. She found her Ladyship upon her knees (not at prayers) but at one of the lower drawers in her dressing room, in which there appeared a great quantity of *gold and silver coin*. Now whether it was the current coin of this realm or not, has not been recorded, though we should be led to imagine it was not, by her being so anxious to get at *that* which her husband had in his pocket; or else why should she have troubled him at all, when she had so much in store?

But

But all this is merely an idle conjecture, we may therefore as well go on with relating the plain matter of fact:—As the gallery which led to the dressing-room was carpeted, her Ladyship did not hear the approaches of the young Lady who was sent as embassador on the part of the pedlar, she had not time therefore or opportunity to conceal her treasure from the inquisitive eye of the female *pleni-po*, who was close to her, before her Ladyship had the least idea that she was overlooked, but the moment she was apprised of the circumstance she seemed rather confused, and hastily shut the drawer; telling the *pleni-po*, that she should be down in an instant. Meantime, Sir William seeing the pedlar in the hall, asked him what he staid for? to which the man replied, that he wished to be gone as it grew late, but that he waited to be paid. At that instant her Ladyship appeared, when the affair between her and the Jew was soon settled; but what Sir William thought of the matter, upon seeing her pay five guineas more than

than he had given her, (and just as she had pretended to him she had *no money*) is a secret that has not been unfolded to us to this day.—As soon as the second bell had rung, when all the party had assembled round the festive board, and the organ had struck up the grand overture, good humour again prevailed; *hobs* and *nobs* went cheerfully round; and as soon as the dessert was placed, and the servants retired, the usual mirth took place, with the diversions of *bouts-rimés*, *catches* and *glees*, to the health of *Cardinal Puff*, the dumb concert, &c. which produced such a scene of satisfaction as nothing could equal, but that unspeakable delight which the amiable and hospitable Baronet felt at beholding all his friends contented and happy around him! That *such* a man should not have been made as completely happy (as far as it is possible for any mortal in this world to be) we cannot but lament, for he had *every requisite* within his own power to attain it, *but one*; and that was the possession of a wife who does not appear

appear to have been *sensible* of the bliss and comfort of being united to one of the most agreeable, as well as best hearted men, that ever lived.—If there be his equal left, it is in the person of his own son, who, we are informed, inherits all the virtues of his HIGHLY HONOURED and RESPECTABLE PARENT.

C H A P. VI.

THE MARQUIS.

THE POWER OF PREJUDICE IN THE HUMAN MIND, WHICH EASILY SUFFERS ITSELF TO BE DUPE~~D~~ BY FALSE APPEARANCES.

PLEASURE now reigned without control, and every hour brought forth new votaries to her shrine; among whom appeared no less a personage than the MARQUIS DE ROCHEFOUCAULT! The instant this Nobleman was perceived on the lawn,

lawn, advancing, in his elegant phæton, drawn by two milk white horses, with flowing tails and manes, towards the door of the saloon, Lady Bon Ton gave a *scream* of joy, and, with her husband, (who was also fond of *Noblesse*) rose from the table to welcome in their noble visitor, who fortunately came as the second course was serving. — No two magpies that ever met *jabbered* with more delight and clatter than did her Ladyship and the accomplished Marquis. Even Satiricus, by his *silence*, seemed *humbled*; and, indeed, there was that *empresement* in the noble stranger's manner, that seemed to cast reproach upon every Englishman present; for nothing could be more opposite than their dress and manners: and, if we might be permitted to make so mean a comparison, it was like setting the *unweildy fir-loin* on the table in company with whipt syllabubs and trifles.---Her Ladyship now forgot to do the honours of her table, beyond that of helping the Marquis to every

every delicacy that it contained. When the Ladies were about to retire, the well bred Marquis not only handed her Ladyship to the door, but likewise retired with them into the drawing room, agreeable to the polite *etiquette* of his country, when the English Gentlemen were left to talk politics, and *muz* over their bottle. The Ladies had not been long in the drawing room before some of the Marquis's *suite* made their appearance; and, to give a zest to the conversation, the French horns were ordered upon the lawn, the sound of which rouzed the *Gentlemen of the bottle*, who all flocked into the drawing room; when the usual afternoon refreshments appeared. This addition, to the party, of six French officers, induced Lady Bon Ton to order music for country dances, which diversion was seldom omitted, unless on those nights which were devoted to theatrical amusements. --- Whilst the company were engaged in dancing, in came Lord Wilton and Sir Charles B. to whom the Marquis had the honour to

be presented, to whom his Lordship very politely gave an invitation to dine with him the next day; his example was followed by all the nobility in the neighbourhood, and a round of dinners was given to the noble stranger, who, no doubt, was soon *convinced* that the *true politeness* of a *well bred Englishman* did *not consist* merely in *polite speeches, grins, shrugs, and bows.* — As the Marquis had a lodging very *conveniently* situated close to Bon Ton Hall, he often favoured the party with his company, but if he was engaged elsewhere in an evening, he did not omit to pay his respects to Lady Bon Ton at her toilet; but as this *tête à tête* became very frequent, it was taken notice of by some of the *cynical Gentlemen*, who most likely had a *hint* from some of the Ladies who did not approve of her Ladyship's *monopolizing* the Marquis, as “*pleased to ruin others wooing, never happy in their own.*” But let that be as it may, there was a sudden stop put to his *morning visits*, though he was invited to come with his

his party in an evening to dance. But though Lady Bon Ton was cruelly ~~de~~^{privately} deprived of the *petite conversation* at her toilet; she was determined to make herself amends by carrying on a little correspondence through the assistance of her favourite maid; but as her Ladyship was still cautious of trusting *her* too far, she made her believe that the correspondence was carried on between the Marquis and one of the young Ladies, for which purpose she set Euterpe to copy her love letters, and also direct them, so that neither the maid or any other person could know that her Ladyship had any hand in it!! We will leave the reader to make his own comments on this kind of conduct in a *married woman* !! and to draw in young innocent girls to *assist her in her vices* !----What an *infernal character* !!! Although the Marquis danced most evenings, he was not always asked to stay supper; but Sir William having one day sent a card of invitation to him and his friends to spend

the evening, Lady Bon Ton thought that this would be a favourable opportunity to put her favorite plan into execution of having *masks* and *fancy dresses*, which she had mentioned some time before, but waited till she had an addition to the usual party, which, with the French officers, would make up about thirty persons ; and without at all consulting her husband, she informed the Ladies of her design, who were very well pleased with the scheme. The moment they had retired after dinner, she ran with rapturous haste to her wardrobe, from which she took out a number of masks, feathers, flowers, gauze, ribbons, hats, garlands, and every kind of ornament, so that they might appear in what ever character they liked best.

“ Drawers, boxes, closets, chests, and cases,
 “ Desks, cabinets, and such like places,
 “ Were all unlocked, at once to get,
 “ Her point, her gauze, her Prussian net,
 “ With fifty names, of fifty kinds,
 “ Which suit variety of minds.”

Every

Every female was now employed at the toilet, and almost dressed when Lady Bon Ton came in equipped in the character of a ballad singer. She was so impatient to run down and shew herself, that she would not stay till the Ladies were ready to accompany her, upon which she sallied forth to receive the compliments due to her TASTE and SPIRIT! but behold, "O grief of "griefs!" (for few things answer our most sanguine expectations) instead of that delight and joy which *she* felt, and with which she wished to inspire others, she was received by the Gentlemen (who were still enjoying themselves round the bottle) with that indifference and *fango* which threw such a damp upon her spirits, that when she came up again, she threw herself down in a chair, crying and sobbing like a whipt school girl, for some time; then rising up with violent anger and vexation, on being disappointed of her amusement, she said, with the utmost indignation, "these *cold Englishmen* there "is no pleasing; how different would this

"little

" little frolic have been received in either
" France or Italy !! " The astonishment
of the Ladies was equal to their mortifica-
tion, having been at the trouble to dress
to no purpose ; for though she endeavoured
to prevail upon them to go down
in their dresses, for two reasons, one was to
shew that there were others who deserved
equal blame ; though she was also in hopes
that when *all the party* were assembled toge-
ther, in their different dresses, her scheme
might *still succeed* ; but she was greatly
mistaken to imagine that any of the Ladies
would run the hazard of a *similar* rebuke,
when their *leader* had met with so little
success.----As soon therefore as they were
again attired in their domestic apparel,
they assembled in the drawing room,
where they found the Gentlemen, when
they were obliged to submit to the witty
jests and sneers of those among them, who
were ill-natured enough to be pleased at
their having *overturned* the romantic in-
tentions of Lady Bon Ton, who recovered
her usual good humour on the appearance

of

of the Marquis and his suite: but still Lady Bon Ton did not feel perfectly easy, as she could not but perceive the whispers, winks, and nods that were levelled against her and the Marquis, and that all the Ladies were upon the titter; added to which, Satiricus, who never let slip an opportunity of turning every thing he could into ridicule, was more severe up on her than the rest, for he walked about the room, singing to himself (but loud enough for all the company to hear, a well-known song in the *Devil to Pay*) “ If “ you cut her off short of her meat and “ her sport, and ten times a day hoop the “ barrel, brave boys.” This was too much, all the company burst out into an immoderate fit of laughter, which made the Frenchmen stare, (who did not know a word of English) and greatly discomposed her Ladyship; but, however, Satiricus being called to order by the Ladies, each led their partners to the joyful dance, when the evening ended with mirth and harmony. As Satiricus is often mentioned in this little history,

history, the reader, perhaps, may be curious to know something more of that Gentleman's character : he was very handsome, possessed of brilliant parts, and true native humour ; but his wit was too often obscene, and he did not always pay the regard that he ought to the favourite maxim of Henry the IVth, in observing, “ TIME, PLACE, and PERSON ;” as a little specimen of which, we will relate the following anecdote :—Being introduced to Sir Richard L. who married the Duchess of B. he was invited to stay dinner. Sir Richard, who had been informed he could sing with infinite taste, begged the favour of him to indulge the Duchess with a song, to which he readily complied, but it was *such a song* as he ought to have been kicked out of the room, or thrown head-long out of the window, for singing !! If there had been even the greatest intimacy between him and Sir Richard, it would have been unpardonable in the presence of a Lady ; but on a first visit, and before such a woman as

as the Duchess of B——, it required that effrontry that no other man but Satiricus possessed! and how does the astonished reader think he was *chastised* by the highly offended Baronet and the Duchess? why, by giving him a general invitation, and by offering him their purse to assist him in furnishing his house, well known by the name of Mahogany Hall!! The subject of the song was an anecdote of *Billy P.* (afterwards Lord C——d) it was indecent beyond conception, but it was pardoned for the sake of the wit and humour it contained, which was thought to overbalance the indecent allusion.

CHAP. VII.

HAUT-TON, OR A SPECIMEN OF FEMALE
DELICACY; NEAT AS IMPORTED FROM
THE CONTINENT.

A COACH and four, with a numerous retinue, drove up to the door of the saloon, when Mrs. *Languish* was announced, who entered the drawing room with *great slate*. She spoke but little; but with an affected *hauteur*, and a kind of *well-bred contempt*, kept looking around her to see whether there was any one *she knew*. After she had indulged herself with this affected reserve and these airs of *consequence* for some time, she *coldly asked* where was *Cornutus*? (for, continued she,) I hope I am come time enough to see your play, as I could wish to know what sort of figure he makes in *Mark Anthony*! upon which she set up a kind of a satirical forced laugh.

At

At that instant her husband appeared, when he politely kissed her cheek, which she coolly turned toward his, but with *perfect good breeding*, having made the *grand tour* with her husband, she *aped* all the foreign manners, but like Lady Bon Ton, copied *only* their foibles. She complained of being fatigued after her journey, hinted her wish of going early to bed, and desired she might be shewn to her chamber. As she passed through the hall she ordered Antonio (her Gentleman) who was in waiting, to bring her a glass of water as soon as he was informed she was in bed!!—“ This speech” (says Euterpe) “ astonished and amazed me beyond “ every thing I had either heard or yet “ seen ; and I was the more so as I did “ not perceive that it was the least re- “ marked by any of the Ladies who were “ present. I could not refrain from expres- “ sing my surprise to the Ladies when we “ were again seated in the drawing room ; “ for, as all the Gentlemen were at bil- “ liards, I ventured to speak my senti-

H 2 “ ments

" ments very freely of the indecent con-
 " duct of Mrs. Languish; but instead of
 " their coinciding with me in my opinion,
 " I was still more surprised and mortified
 " to find I was only laughed at and ridi-
 " culed, *particularly* by Lady Bon Ton,
 " who observed, that it was a sign I never
 " had been *abroad*, or else I should scarce-
 " ly have been surprised at a thing of *that*
 " *kind*. The ladies now withdrew, in or-
 " der to go to their chambers." Mrs.
 Stately, who was a woman of much more
 decorum than any of the rest, and who
 had been silent during the above topic,
 give a hint to Euterpe to follow her to
 her bed-chamber, where she began as fol-
 lows: "I do not wonder, my dear Eu-
 " terpe, at your expressing your surprise
 " at Mrs. Languish, for ordering her
 " Gentleman to bring her the water *after*
 " she was in bed, for I confess I think as
 " you do, that it is very indelicate; but
 " the Ladies who have been much abroad
 " are so accustomed to see those sort of
 " freedoms among the French and Italian
 women

" women that it does not strike *them* as
" it does those who never visited the Con-
" tinent. But what will you say when I
" tell you that Antonio not only carries
" her the water after she is in bed, but
" airs her shift or any other linen she may
" want, and takes it to her in the morning
" before she is up; and, besides dressing
" her hair, he is as handy in helping her
" to dress and undress as any waiting
" maid you ever saw." Euterpe heard
all this with astonishment! and innocently
asked, whether her husband liked she
should be waited on by such a *handsome*
man as Antonio? at which question Mrs.
Stately, (who seldom designed to go be-
yond a smile, which set off the fascinating
dimple in her cheek) laughed outright,
observing, that she did not imagine her
husband cared at all *who* waited upon
his wife, so that *he* was at liberty to in-
dulge his own inclinations with other wo-
men more to his taste; at which Euterpe
exclaimed, " good God! what an un-
" happy wretch should I be if I had a
" husband

“ husband that liked any other woman
“ better than myself!!” “ Then child,”
(resumed Mrs. S.) “ you had better never
“ marry, for it is ten thousand to one
“ but you will meet with that mortifica-
“ tion; which, if you should, you must
“ bear with the same patience and philo-
“ sophy as I do ;” (heaving a gentle sigh.)
“ Dear madam, what do you mean ?” (re-
plied Euterpe) “ why ” (say Mrs. S.) “ I
“ mean you should prepare yourself to
“ bear with patience and resignation the
“ lot of most married women: for my part
“ I am now pretty well weaned, though
“ I did at first suffer the utmost agony
“ and heart-felt grief when I found that
“ Mr. Stately had an intrigue with a wo-
“ man by whom he has had three children,
“ and that he intends to take her with him
“ to the West Indies, (I am informed) in a
“ few weeks ! So I would not have you
“ indulge yourself, child, with the roman-
“ tic notions of having a husband *all to*
“ *yourself*; if you do, you will be a miser-
“ able Being.—If I had ever been guilty
“ of

" of such levities and improper conduct
" for which both Mrs. Languish and Lady
" Bon Ton have been justly accused, I
" could not have expected or have merited
" his affection and fidelity; but I never
" gave him any *cause* to neglect me. As
" to Mr. L's. husband, I know he detests
" her, and he cannot, I think, be igno-
" rant of her intrigue with Mr. B. whom
" you will see to-morrow. As for Lady
" Bon Ton, her manners are totally
" changed from what they were when first
" she was married; she was then a very
" pretty modest little woman; but after
" her husband had foolishly taken her to
" France and Italy, she came back so al-
" tered, that I was quite shocked; and,
" indeed, Sir William is too easy and
" good-natured to indulge her, as he
" does, in all her extravagant follies.
" Take warning, my dear Euterpe, and
" profit by their examples, to shun the
" precipice into which they have fallen."

—Euterpe followed her counsel, and by preserving, unsullied, her innocence and

virtue,

virtue, she afterwards obtained the utmost bliss that Heaven could bestow, in giving her to a man of sense, honour, and virtue. Their conjugal happiness was almost without example, and which nothing but DEATH was able to interrupt for the space of thirty years!

CHAP. VIII.

REFLECTIONS ON THE FOREGOING CHAPTER—AN ANECDOTE OF A BEAUTIFUL FRENCH COUNTESS.

WE are induced from the above conversation to repeat it, once more as our opinion, that it is owing to its having been the fashion, for some years past, for the English Ladies to have such frequent intercourse with the Continent, that we see so little of the amiable bashfulness which was formerly the characteristic of English women

women *only*; who, by endeavouring to imitate the manners of the French and Italian Ladies, have, in general, *over-shot* their mark. They do not consider, that a French woman can use those freedoms with impunity in *her own country*, which would stamp *even her* as a *courtesan* (if she was guilty of the same indecencies) in England. Then how much *worse* does it appear in the *naturally reserved* English women, who *learn* to throw off that native diffidence and modesty, for which they once were thought **SUPERIOR** to the females of every other nation under the sun, and were admired by all foreigners! What should we have thought of a young English woman of quality if we had heard the following story related of her; which is a *fact* that cannot be doubted, as we had it from the lips of the late Earl of Rochford? When his Lordship was appointed ambassador to the court of France, he (as it is usual) ordered a list to be made out of all the nobility whom he was to visit;

among them was the Count de ——, a man in years, who had been lately married to a very young Lady. The Earl was not personally acquainted with the Count, and had never seen the bride. Upon his arrival at the door of the Count, the servant was asked if he was at home, the porter replied his master was not *chez lui*, but that *madame* was *visible*; upon which the Earl was conducted through a long suit of rooms, when, at length, a door opened into a magnificent bed chamber, where he found the young and beautiful countess sitting up in her bed: after the first salutations were over, and his Lordship had seated himself by the side of her bed; the *fille de chambre* left the room, but returned in a few minutes with her Lady's *chemise*, which having warmed, she festooned it up in an elegant manner, and then presented it to the ambassador, who was not only a man of finished breeding, but was also accustomed to the *etiquette* of a French woman of quality's *ruelle*; he therefore took the *chemise* and held it over the Countess's head,

head, who immediately threw off her white fatten bed-gown, and then, (to make use of his Lordship's own words) slipping her little white shoulder out of the *chemise*, she was casting off, HIS EXCELLENCY had the honour of putting on her clean one; upon which she made her acknowledgements, with great politeness and perfect good breeding. When his Lordship related to us this circumstance, (which happened but a very few weeks before) an English gentleman present asked him whether he did not complete his happiness in saluting the Countess, after she had so graciously granted him so high an honour? "O no, (replied the Earl) "if I had made the least "offer to have kissed her lips, her resentment might have proved fatal to me!"—

The truth is, a *French* woman knows *how far* to go, and the English woman knows not *where* to stop! The only reason that can be assigned for this difference is, the former will indulge herself with going great lengths in gallantry without endangering *her heart*; as (for the most

part) the French females are as much strangers to the finer feelings as they are to sentiment: but the generality of the latter, who, on the contrary, possess exquisite sensibility, are always in danger of falling, whenever they venture to permit *too far*, even those sort of innocent freedoms which are liable to make an impression on their hearts. The *person* of an English woman is never in danger unless her *heart* is.

CHAP. IX.

AN EXCURSION TO APSLEY LODGE. A CAMP DINNER AT WINCHESTER. THE SEIZURE OF A ROUGE BOX, THE MIRTH IT OCCASIONS AMONG THE GENTLEMEN.

BUT it is now time to re-conduct the reader to Bon Ton Hall, where the numerous guests were all assembled in the breakfast

breakfast room, except Mrs. Languish, who was still too much fatigued with her journey to make her appearance, when a card arrived from Mr. and Mrs. Peters to invite *all* the party to spend the next day at Apsley Lodge; many of whom refused the gratification of accepting that very agreeable invitation, as so very large a party would have more the appearance of a public procession than a private visit: it was therefore determined, that no more should go, than would fill three coaches. A polite reception and magnificent entertainment was no more than might be naturally expected at APSLEY LODGE, where every thing was conducted with superior stile and elegance; but as a great wit* once pleasantly observed, that there was no one born but had (more or less) a *wrong corner*, we are induced to be of the *same* opinion, when we behold those whose general conduct is irreproachable, suffer themselves to be so far misled as

* Charles Townshend.

to fall into unpardonable follies and absurdities, merely to appear FASHIONABLE, and most probably against their own judgment: for if one might form an opinion, from the general conduct and appearance of Mrs. Peters, she never gave the least cause for entertaining the most distant idea of her not being as chaste in thoughts as her actions were modest, besides, she was the most reserved woman in England, rather indeed bordering upon *prudery* than otherwise, and yet, strange to tell, there hung opposite to her, when she sat at the head of her table, a picture (purchased at a *very high* price in Italy) of two *naked* figures as large as life, so very indecent and so *highly coloured*, as would have put *even a French woman* to the blush!! in deed, almost every room in the house produce such sort of disgusting objects equally offensive to delicacy and modesty. They may call this TON, TASTE FASHION, or what they please, but neither

ther common sense, or common decency will allow any other term for it, than that of a preposterous unreflecting vanity. But it is being guilty of treason in the eye of a *virtuoso*, to hint the least disapprobation of the works of a REUBENS, a GUIDO, or a CARRACI, let the subject of them be ever so exceptionable; nor can there ever be any hopes of a reform as to these points, till REASON is no longer the slave of FASHION.

Mrs. Stately having received a letter on her return from Apsley Lodge, informing her, that her father Sir E. A. intended to spend a few days with her at her seat at Belle-vue, she immediately set off for that place accompanied by Euterpe, who was enchanted with her delightful retirement, where she found not only leisure to contemplate the beauties of nature, but to moralize on those scenes of tumultuous pleasure she had so recently witnessed at Bon Ton Hall. But she was not permitted long to indulge herself with this pleasing change, for as soon as Sir E. A.

had

had taken leave of his daughter, she sent cards of invitation to all the neighbouring nobility, when more than a month was taken up with playing at cards and visiting. Mrs. S. and Euterpe having received an invitation from Sir William C. to a camp dinner near Winchester, they sat out in Mrs. Stately's coach, drawn by six beautiful bays, a suitable retinue and two French-horns to announce their arrival at the camp, where they had the honour to receive from the officers the salute *militaire*. Pleasure smiled throughout the camp, when Mrs. Stately received a check to her happiness, by a *faux-pas* of Euterpe, who candidly owned that she put on *rouge*! This confession had like to have cost that simple girl the friendship of her friend Mrs. Stately, who manifestly appeared very much disconcerted; and for this indiscretion, Euterpe got rebuked on her way home; for Mrs. Stately, who put on her *rouge* with that delicacy as to imitate nature, was so much deceived by her own treacherous mirror, as to imagine

gine no one could perceive that her cheeks were otherwise tinted than with the sweet bloom of nature, and still hoped to continue the deception, till an unlucky discovery put it out of all dispute. Sir W. C. Lord A. and Lord B. being one day at Belle-vue, Mrs. Stately took a letter out of her pocket, part of which she read to Sir W. C. but, he being curious to see further into the contents of the epistle, endeavoured to snatch it out of her hand as she was putting it into her pocket, but in the midst of this little *bardrage*, instead of the letter he got possession of a box, when he declared he would have a pinch of her snuff; but upon its being opened, there was such a double discovery as caused infinite mirth to all the gentlemen to the no small confusion of Mrs. Stately; who was not only mortified at its being found to have contained *rouge* instead of snuff, but that the inside lid should expose also a small picture of a nun and a friar, sufficient to have raised the *rosy hue* in

her cheeks, without the aid of artificial bloom. This was a triumph which was highly enjoyed by the malicious baronet, and caused no less merriment to the rest of the gentlemen.

C H A P. X.

EUTERPE PAYS A VISIT TO HER FRIEND
LADY ELIZABETH TUDOR AT BATH.
MAKES A DEEP IMPRESSION ON THE
HEART OF A NOBLE EARL. THE
FRENCH MARQUIS SUDDENLY DECAMPS
WITH ALL HIS SUITE.

THE next day Euterpe received a letter from her father, acquainting her that he proposed being at BELLE-VUE in a day or two, and desired she would be in readiness to accompany him to Bath, where he intended to leave her under the protection of Lady Elizabeth Tudor during a part of the winter. Lady E. being a woman

of

of very high rank, and of course related to many of the best families in the kingdom, Euterpe was soon introduced into the very first circles, among whom was the Earl of Guernsey, married to the Duchess of B. This nobleman conceived so great a *penchant* for Euterpe, that his frequent visits to the house of Lady E. T. became the general topic of conversation at Bath. He even knelt before her portrait, which was then painting by the celebrated G. and kissed it in the presence of many persons, who undoubtedly smiled to see that his Lordship seemed not only to *forget* his own age, in which he had the start of Euterpe full forty years, but also that he was a *married* man; in short, he seemed so intoxicated with his new passion, that he scarcely took any pains to conceal it. Euterpe had not been long at Bath before she received a very flattering letter from Lady Bon Ton, informing her that the Marquis *de Rochefoucault* was at Bath, and as he was a stranger there, she should esteem it as a very particular favour, if

Euterpe would introduce him to Lady Elizabeth, and also inclosed a letter for him, with a gold purse of her own working, which she begged he would accept of *as a token of her regard*, entreating the favour of Euterpe to send it him. Lady Elizabeth very justly observed, it was a very improper present for a *married* woman to make any man; and still more so, to convey it through the hands of such a young girl as Euterpe; adding, she never liked Lady Bon Ton, who had all the levities of the French, without any of their politeness and good breeding, and was nothing more than a mere Hoyden. However, Lady Elizabeth soon after had a rout, when to oblige Euterpe, cards of invitation were sent to the Marquis and his *suite*, who was not only introduced to her Ladyship, but also to a great number of persons of high rank, among whom was Lady H. Lady R. Lord and Lady H. Lady P. Mrs. P. H. (Privy Purse) &c. who all seemed *wonderfully pleased* with the acquaintance of the **NOBLE** stranger. But Mr. Tudor
(the

(the husband of Lady Elizabeth, who was as remarkable for his sense and penetration, as he was for every amiable quality that can do honour to a man) declared it as *his* opinion that the Marquis, though he had a great deal of the *French civility* about him, did not appear to be a man of that rank which his title announced him to be : this brought on an altercation between Brass Y. and Mr. Tudor, who would not give up his first opinion, which did not a little disconcert the W...shire Squire, who was much piqued at Mr. Tudor for venturing to dispute the Marquis's birth, as he himself had been one of the first to shew the NOBLE stranger all the honours due to his very high rank, and had entertained him with the utmost magnificence at his seat in W—shire. Every day parties were made, to which Euterpe was invited, when she became acquainted with Mrs. P. (privy purse to the Princess of W.) a woman of extraordinary fine sense and high breeding. Euterpe was greatly noticed by this Lady, and invited

to

to accompany her to Mr. Allen's of Prior Park, where they were joined by Lady Elizabeth and Mr. Tudor, and a large party of the very first fashion; among whom, was the NOBLE stranger and his *suite*: they were all entertained with that hospitality and magnificence which every one must have experienced who had the pleasure of being introduced to the worthy and truly respectable master of the place. Euterpe having informed her father by letter, of the great notice that was taken of her at Bath, received not only a fresh supply of cash, but an elegant addition to her wardrobe, which enabled her to appear in a style much superior to most of the young girls of her own age; and as her father who doated on her wished to give her a farther *eclat*, he desired her to give a public breakfast at the rooms, to which not less than two hundred persons were invited, who were also regaled with an excellent band of music during breakfast, and afterwards with dancing. Among the rest of the nobility was the NOBLE MAR-

quis and his *fuite*; but who, in spite of every attention that was paid to his high rank, seemed very much dejected, and soon after quitted Bath, as it was supposed for want of that most essential of all *effentials*, to enable him to *keep up an appearance*; do not be startled, Reader, when we repeat to *keep up an appearance* he was not the least entitled to!! and as this GREAT MAN will not appear any more in this history, the Reader shall not be any longer deceived, but be informed that the now NOBLE MARQUIS *de Galere* in a very short time after his return to France, had the misfortune to be chained to an oar at the gallies, for daring to take upon him the name and quality of one of the first families in France!! We are not surprised at the *effrontery* of a needy adventurer, but that so many of the English nobility, particularly the Earl of P. and some other noblemen who had been as Paris but a few years before, should have suffered themselves to have been taken in, and for such a length of time, by this impostor,

when

when they might have informed themselves of *his real rank*, with very little trouble, through the means of the French ambassador, who could not have been ignorant an hour of such a man being in England as the son of the Duke de ROCHEFOUCAULT! but this shews the powers of *prejudice* over the mind, and how easily people are deluded by false appearances, who suffer their judgment to be *bias'd* and dazled by the false glare of RANK and FORTUNE; whilst real modest merit (without those visible marks of *invisible* merit) is treated with cold neglect and indifference, if not with contempt!!!

As Mr. Tudor and Lady Elizabeth intended to pass the remainder of the winter in London, they politely gave Euterpe a place in their carriage, in which she was safely conducted to the house of her father, by whom she was received with every tender mark of affection. Euterpe, who had by this time made a very large acquaintance, began to think of having a fixed day to entertain her friends, and as

she

she was an enemy to cards, she had a *musical* assembly once a week, which was well attended by an excellent band of the first performers, besides a great number of *amateurs* who occasionally assisted. Among her visitors appeared the noble Earl whose affections seemed not in the least diminished since their last interview at Bath; he came accompanied by his Lady and son, with whom she had also the honour to be in high favour. Her Ladyship, in particular, shewed an uncommon partiality for Euterpe, to whom she not only gave a general invitation, but likewise introduced her to many of the first families in the kingdom. Mrs. Stately, whose friendship for Euterpe increased daily, introduced her to many others of high rank, among whom was the Countess of —, with whom Euterpe soon became highly disgusted; for though she was a very sensible and accomplished woman, yet there were some traits in her character which were *detestable*: her conversation was oftentimes so very indecent,

particularly when in company with ladies of the same *guise*, that Euterpe could not be prevailed upon to repeat it, even to a lady with whom she lived upon terms of the most friendly intimacy; though it was spoken by her Ladyship in the presence of her own two footmen!! It is worthy of observation, that no men are so indelicate in their discourse as some women of a *certain age*; and a young girl is in more danger of having her morals corrupted by some of these *high bred* females than by men, even of the most debauched principles: for we are not ashamed, though we are sorry, to repeat that there is scarcely any man, let him be ever so bad, but has *some* good qualities, while a *bad woman* is in general *corrupt throughout*. But we do not wish it to be understood, that by the term *bad*, to rank the *unfortunate* or *indiscreet*, indiscriminately, with the *vicious*; for it is as impossible for a woman to be virtuous who is not chaste, as it is for a woman to be chaste who is not virtuous;

real

real guilt can only lie in the *mind*. A poor simple girl (for instance) whose innocence has been betrayed by possessing too much sensibility and credulity, cannot with the least shadow of justice, be put upon the same level with an ADULTRESS, or even those abandoned females (however chaste as to their *persons*) who take delight in putting modesty to the blush by such obscene discourse as would even shock the ears of a French courtezan; and yet the poor deluded and injured girl, whose *mind* perhaps is still untainted, and who merits pity and compassion, instead of insult and contempt, will be scouted and avoided as a pestilence, whilst the *married* woman of FASHION (let her be ever so infamous) is admitted into every *polite circle*!!! So true it is, that *prejudice*, not *reason*, chiefly governs the actions of mankind. We are apt to judge of right and wrong, as it is established by custom, which is oftentimes very erroneous. How many do we daily see who are the objects of a mean

adulation when they are *known* to be guilty of the most horrid and disgusting crimes, which they commit with impunity (and for which the *ragged* culprit is justly *condemned*) because they are *rich* or *betitled*. Does law and equity then always act in conformity to each other? But true virtue is often mistaken by many women who imagine (or at least wish it to be thought) it consists in chastity alone; though it is a truth, not to be argued, that chastity is and ever will be considered as a gem of the most inestimable value that can adorn female excellence: yet, if it be not united with the other amiable quality which should dwell within a woman's breast, its lustre is in a partial state of eclipse!

GAMING (or rather *gambling*) which is a vice that has ever been held *infamous* even among *men*, is now a *fashionable* pastime of (what is called) women of character! But the female who is a slave to this passion, possesses, in our humble opinion, a heart infinitely more corrupt than her

whose

whose crime has the weakness of our nature to plead in her defence. But, perhaps, this vindication in favour of *betrayed* and injured innocence, may bring upon us the ill natured sarcasms, or a contemptuous toss of the head from some over scrupulous female, whose *rigid virtue* will not permit her to pardon or make the least allowance for youthful failings in her own sex: but it is not in *such* a bosom that we shall look for pity or compassion, or benevolence, or *that* charity in which we are instructed by every CHRISTIAN and RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLE.

We hope the candid reader will pardon this digression into which we are naturally led, by feeling a just indignation at the recital of those vices which have been the *real cause* of so much ruin to families, whose peace and happiness have been totally destroyed by following the examples of those whom folly and custom have taught us to look up to, with regard and respect.

CHAP.

C H A P. XI.

MRS. STATELY RECEIVES A PRESENT
FROM HER FATHER OF A SUPERB SER-
VICE OF PLATE: GIVES A GRAND SUP-
PER ON THE OCCASION, TO WHICH,
MANY OF THE NOBILITY ARE INVITED.

SIR E. A. having made his daughter, Mrs. Stately, a present of a complete service of plate, she gave a very splendid supper on the occasion, at which the Countess of —, the Countess of T. and many others of high rank assisted: it was also a *farewell* supper on the part of Mr. Stately who was to set out, in a few days, on his voyage to the West Indies. Among the guests were Lady R. (afterwards embassadref to the court of France) Lords R. D. and W. E—n, Marquis of B. and Mrs. C. As we have just above observed that *married* women of FASHION however *infamous* were too often received

in

in the first circles, the latter lady being admitted of the party will be sufficient to stamp the *veracity* of our assertion. Mrs. C. was a remarkably pretty woman, and her husband, who was sometimes *himself jockeyed* upon the turf, found it necessary to replenish an empty purse, *some how or other*; and Lord B. knowing the distresses of his *Newmarket friend*, supplied him with whatever cash he wanted without any other interest *except that* which he received from the *gratitude* of his beautiful wife: but this is not (we are sorry to observe) a singular instance; there are many men who make great fortunes by letting out their wives, as others do by letting out other things. Such criticism, however, may be thought rather ill-natured to be introduced at the very time that we are going to partake of the hospitality and pleasures of the festive board, on which Mrs. Stately had displayed uncommon taste and elegance. As a proof that it was costly as it was elegant, we will repeat what Mrs. Stately herself told one of

the guests, that the *sauce only*, of one of the corner dishes, cost a *whole Westphalia ham*, (the essence of which was *extracted*) to make that delicious gravy which was so highly admired by all the company !! Perhaps some *ill-natured* reflections will be cast (particularly by some *hungry garreter* writers, like ourselves) upon Mrs. Stately for that, whom those who know nothing of *high life*, may call **EXTRAVAGANCE**; but how are the *poor* to be *fed*, unless "from the crumbs which fall from the rich man's table?" Supper being ended, the conversation became more lively; brilliant *jeu de mots*, smart repartees, and delicate *double entendres* flashed round the table with high glee, which particularly delighted the Countess of T. who felt no restraint upon her *favourite topics*, which were echoed by the Countess of R. and embellished with a few *high flavoured* additions by the witty Earl of E. We must, however, do justice to Mrs. C. who did not let one syllable drop from her lips that could in the least wound the ear of

the

the most spotless virgin; she being still young, she aimed to *please*, not *disgust*: for the ladies that were so very indelicate in their discourse, it is to be observed, were arrived at that age when *personal beauty* loses its attractions; and therefore had, as they imagined, no other chance of attracting notice, but by the brilliancy of their *unconstrained wit*, affected gaiety, and wanton pleasantry: but it may be said of *such* women, what has been said of traitors; that though the treason may please, the traitor is always despised and abhorred.

CHAP. XII.

LORD GUERNSEY OFFERS TO SETTLE UPON
EUTERPE EIGHT HUNDRED POUNDS A
YEAR, AND GIVE HER A WRITTEN
PROMISE TO MARRY HER UPON THE
DEATH OF HIS COUNTESS.

AS Lord Guernsey's fondness for Euterpe daily increased, his attention and assiduity kept pace with his professions of regard; and he hinted his wish of getting an establishment for her; not only with a view, as it appeared, of removing her from under the eye of her father, but also for the purpose of breaking off some of Euterpe's connections, which he thought did not *favour* his designs: he therefore told her that the housekeeper of Somerset House was very ill and given over by her physicians, and that Euterpe (if she approved of it) should have that appointment the moment it became vacant,

cant, as it was in the gift of his friend the Duke of D. and, (continued the Earl) "to give you every proof in my power of the affection, I sincerely feel for you, I will settle upon you eight hundred pounds a year, with a promise, under my hand, to marry you when Lady G. dies; and to convince you I am in earnest, give me pen, ink and paper, and then you cannot any longer be in doubt as to the sincerity of my love: and as a still farther proof of it, I give you my word of honour that I have left a lady of high rank with whom I have lived many years in the greatest intimacy upon your account!" Euterpe's astonishment was so great, that for some time she remained silent, not knowing what answer to make. Upon which, the Earl, pressing her hand to his lips, said (with a dejected countenance) "I see plainly, Euterpe, by your not immediately embracing my offer, that you do not love me; it is my age which makes me despisable in your eyes." The last words

M 2 roused

roused Euterpe, and moved her heart to pity, when she replied, "No, my Lord, "you do me wrong; I feel so much respect and esteem for your Lordship, "that if you were single, I should prefer "you to any man I have ever yet seen; "—It is not your age; but I cannot in "honour accept of the settlement: if "you will employ your interest in getting "me an appointment of maid of honour, "you will highly oblige me, and TIME, "my Lord, may do the rest, with honour "to myself." He then took his leave, but not without a compliment to her delicacy and virtue, which he owned made her worthy to fill the most exalted station; while he expressed an hope that one day or other, Providence, (to use his Lordship's own words,) would put it in his power to make an offer of his hand where he already had given his heart. For some time after he went away, Euterpe was seized with a kind of stupor, being overcome by different passions, which took possession of her mind. Her vanity and ambition were great,

great, and so were also her notions of honour. To refuse such an opportunity of moving in the first sphere, which in all probability would be in a short time, as Lady G. was not only many years older than her husband, but very infirm, may by some be considered as folly; but to have accepted of such a settlement, would have blasted her reputation for ever. Euterpe, indeed, had her conflicts: a thousand fallacious arguments suggested themselves in behalf of her ambition: she had a powerful adviser also, whom she dares not name; but she had a sense of virtue, which, though shaken for a moment, could not be finally overthrown; and, strengthened by its influence, she combated the temptation, and was triumphant. Hence it is that she now possesses an unreproaching mind, and an irreproachable character, compared with which, titles, rank, and fortune, are but as dust in the balance.

CHAP. XIII.

EUTERPE HAS THE HONOUR OF BEING
PRESENTED TO HIS R. H. P. E. BY THE
MARCHIONESS OF R—M. IS PRE-
VENTED (BY THE JEALOUSY OF LORD
G.) FROM ACCEPTING OF AN INVITA-
TION TO MEET THE P. IN COMPANY
WITH PERSONS OF THE HIGHEST RANK.

EUTERPE soon after receiving an in-
vitation to spend the evening with
the Countess of Guernsey, she was so
fortunate as to meet the Marchioness of
R---m, who invited Euterpe to a rout
that her Ladyship was to have, a few
days after, at her house in Grosvenor-
square, which was to be honoured by
the presence of H. R. H. P. E. (after-
wards Duke of Y.) her Ladyship was
pleased politely to say, that the Prince
had signified his desire of hearing Euterpe,
of

of whose musical talents he had heard so much. Euterpe accordingly went with Lady G. and was introduced to the P. who not only politely complimented her upon her vocal and musical powers, but did her the honour to accompany her himself upon the violincello.

A few days after, Mrs. J. a very accomplished elegant woman, and who was ambitious to get the Prince to her house, to whom she had the honour to be well known, though not sufficiently intimate to ask him to be of her parties, made use of the following stratagem:—Meeting his Highness in the Park, she told him she had been informed that Euterpe had been presented to him at Lady R---m's, upon which it seems H. R. H. was pleased to say some civil things of Euterpe. Mrs. J. then informed him that she was to have a small party soon at her house, at which Euterpe was to be present, and if H. H. wished to be further acquainted with her, Mrs. J. should think herself very highly honoured if H. R. H. would condescend

to

to drop in. The P. very politely replied that he should be happy to wait upon her, and at the same time desired her to let him know when she had fixed upon the evening. Now there was not the least truth in what Mrs. J. had told the Prince, relative to her having formed a party, or having invited Euterpe; for she was not able to fix the evening till *after* she had given Euterpe an invitation, which she did in the following manner. Early one morning she came with Lady L. B. to visit Euterpe, who not being up, the servants informed Mrs. J. that their mistress was gone out; “gone out!” (says Mrs. J. with some surprise) “why, I come thus early on purpose, having something of importance to communicate to her, and I *must* see her; do, I entreat you, go up and tell her she must not be denied to me, as it is an affair of great consequence which has brought me here.” But the servant still persisting in it, that his mistress was gone out, she desired him to bring her pen, ink, and paper, upon which

she

she wrote the following laconic epistle,
while she sat in the chariot.—

" MY DEAR EUTERPE,

" I AM both astonished and dis-
" appointed to find you gone out! Prince
" E. is charmed with you, wishes to meet
" you at my house; pray fix the evening
" as soon as possible; do not keep me in
" suspence, write a line this evening;
" as it depends upon *you*, I do intreat you
" to let me know your determination, for
" as soon as you do, I must immediately
" inform the Prince. Nobody is of the
" party but the Duke and Duchess of R.
" the General and myself, perhaps Col.
" B. comes with the Prince, who is a
" friend of yours; so you see it will only
" be a little snug party. Adieu, I am
" truly yours, my dear Euterpe. Lady
" Lucy B. who is with me presents com-
" pliments.

" N. B. *Pray come alone.*"

When this very curious epistle was carried up to Euterpe, she was still in bed, but while she was dressing, her father came in, who advised her to go immediately after dinner, and consult the Countess of Guernsey, whose advice he wished her to follow, though it was his own opinion, he said, that she ought to fix upon an evening, agreeable to Mrs. J.'s desire. As Euterpe drove up to the door of Lady G. she met Lord V. and the witty W. coming out, who informed her that both Lord and Lady G. were gone to the Duchess of R——d's rout: she then gave Lord V. Mrs. J.'s letter, entreating the favour of him to give it to his mother; she then took her leave, saying, she would call again early the next morning; but, uneasy at not being able to return an answer to Mrs. J. she went directly to her house in Berkeley square, and found only the General at home, who said he knew nothing of either the letter or invitation; and seemed greatly surprised at his not having

having been let into the secret! The next morning Euterpe found her amiable patroness and his Lordship, impatiently waiting her arrival, when the following conversation passed. "I have read Mrs. "J.'s letter," said the Countess, "and I "cannot say that I think it will be pru- "dent in you, my dear, to go: the con- "duct of Mrs. J. merits reproach; and the "desiring you to come *alone* carries with it "a very suspicious appearance." "Yes," added his Lordship, who had been hitherto silent "I think that Euterpe would act "very wrong if she were to go, unless she "were to be accompanied by a proper "person; but even in that case, it would "be as well let alone; for we all know, "when Princes chuse to converse pri- "vately with *ladies*, the company never "fail to take the *hint* and retire." His Lordship continued to harangue in this manner for a considerable time, to deter Euterpe from going, which greatly mortified her, first, as it highly flattered her vanity to be noticed by ROYALTY! and

N 2 secondly,

secondly, she well knew the *secret motives* of her old lover, who was *jealous* of every man she spoke to! Euterpe then returned home much chagrined as she was greatly distressed how to act in regard to Mrs. J. not daring to tell her the *true* reason for refusing her invitation, being upon honour not to discover her noble adviser, lest he might feel the just resentment of offended Royalty. "It was," said Euterpe, "the first time in my life that I ever felt so embarrassed; the not being allowed to follow my own inclinations in a matter so infinitely agreeable to me, was not the *real* cause of all my uneasiness, but the having been severely reproached by a friend, on whom I called in my way home, and one for whom I felt the highest respect and sincere regard, for refusing to go where it was my *interest* to oblige, and as my refusal, he said, might probably be the means of frustrating my hopes of being appointed maid of honour: in short, he was so severe on the conduct of Lord G. that

" from

" from some words he let drop, I was
" under some apprehension it would be
" productive of a quarrel between them!"
But at last, with a mind ill at ease, Euterpe
wrote the following epistle.

" MY DEAR MADAM,

" WHAT shall I say for not ac-
" cepting of your polite and most agreea-
" ble invitation? Impute it to any thing
" but the want of that attention and re-
" spect which I must ever feel for a wo-
" man so truly amiable and accomplished
" as Mrs. J.; believe me, dear Madam, I
" speak not this in flattery. You may easily
" imagine it is not *my own* fault that I am
" deprived of an honour which would
" have made me infinitely happy; but I
" cannot, for particular reasons, have the
" pleasure of waiting upon you; but do
" me the justice to believe,

" DEAR MADAM,

" That I am sincerely yours,
" With the highest respect,
" And most perfect esteem,
" EUTERPE"

Mrs. J.'s answer was such as might be naturally expected from a vain, haughty, and *disappointed* woman, full of severe reproaches, and expressions of violent anger, as her desire of getting the Prince to her house was by this means totally overthrown! The Sunday after being the day on which she knew Euterpe received company, she came with Lady Lucy B. she entered the room, her eyes sparkling with rage, and begged to speak with Euterpe in private, who accordingly retired with her into the next room, where she was beset by Mrs. J. in so furious a manner, that Euterpe burst into tears, telling her it was not her own fault, for she should have been exceedingly happy to have been of her party: then says Mrs. J. I know *who* was your *adviser*, and I am determined to acquaint the Prince with his conduct: indeed, Euterpe, you are greatly to blame to suffer yourself to be so misled as to affront one of the Royal Family, and at a time too, when you are endeavouring to get the

the place of maid of honour ; surely you must be mad ; but I know it is of no use to talk to *you*, I will call your *adviser* to an account myself. She then flew like a dragon into the other room, and called Lord Guernsey to her, when the dispute became so warm and so very loud as to bring some of the company from the next room ; among whom was Lord B. and the above mentioned friend, who had so severely reproached Euterpe before on the same subject : therefore they readily joined with Mrs. J. against the Earl ; and, indeed, many more who were present agreed, that Euterpe acted very wrong in refusing to meet the Prince in such respectable company as that of the D. and Duchess of R.* and that it was an affront to *them* as

* Whatever Mrs. J.'s *intentions* were (in case she had been honoured with the presence of the P.) it is most certain that neither the D. nor Duchess of R. had received any invitation whatever ! nor was this discovered till Mrs. J. (being alarmed at its becoming a topic of conversation) sent her sister to beg it as the greatest favour, that Euterpe would give her up the letter which we have already recited.

well

well as the Prince. Euterpe had but one card left to play, and she was determined to let no one into the secret. She accordingly set off next morning to visit the Hon. Mrs. B. (a most charming woman) and begged she might see the Colonel, who was equerry to the Prince: to him she related all her grievances, and entreated of him to inform the Prince of her uneasiness, lest H.R.H. should be offended: the Colonel, accordingly, had the goodness to comply with her request, and informed his Royal Highness of the whole affair. The Prince smiled, and took an occasion some time after, to convince her that he was not displeased with her conduct.

C H A P. XIV.

LADY BON TON SENDS A CARD OF INVITATION TO EUTERPE: PAYS HER GREAT ATTENTION TO MAKE AMENDS FOR HER FORMER RUDENESS. SIR WILLIAM BON TON MENTIONS HIS INTENTION OF HAVING ANOTHER THEATRICAL. COMPLIMENTS EUTERPE WITH AN OFFER OF NAMING THE PLAY, AND ALSO THE PART SHE MAY CHUSE TO PERFORM.

A FEW days after, Euterpe received an invitation from Lady Bon Ton, requesting the favour of her and her father's company to spend the evening with her in Portman-square, where they found Lady H. Satiricus, Lord Wilton, and many more of the Bon Ton Hall party: among the guests they were not a little surprised to find the renowned *Rofcius*, whose former meanness was either forgot or forgiven by

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the good-natured Baronet ; the celebrated and elegant *Violette* was also present, whose beautiful figure and perfect good breeding was equal to that inimitable grace with which she danced. Sir William Bon Ton mentioned, after supper, his intentions of entertaining his friends with another Theatrical, and complimented Euterpe with the choice of a play, in which, he said, she should perform the principal character. This marked attention in Sir William a little embarrassed Euterpe, who modestly declined naming the one or the other, and begged it might be left to Lady Bon Ton, who, she observed ought to play the principal part, as her Ladyship so highly distinguished herself in that of **PORCIA**. This compliment, which was so justly due to Lady Bon Ton, was highly applauded by the company, and gave manifest pleasure to Lady B. who seemed so much pleased with Euterpe, as to insist that she should not only chuse the play, but also the character she chose to perform; upon which Euterpe replied, since

she

She was commanded to name the play, she should like to appear in the part of *Juliet*. The whole company applauded her choice, and *Rofcins* very politely said he should be very happy to afford her every assistance in his power to forward her in the part, but as he was informed that she was intimately acquainted with *Cordelia*, it would be better to receive a few instructions from that inimitable actress. Euterpe, however, being well acquainted with the judicious S——n, put herself under his tuition, who took infinite pains in teaching her to read not only the part of *Juliet*, but likewise Milton and other authors. An accident happened to Euterpe, while rehearsing the *window scene*, by which she ran the risque of being *intombed* in reality, without any previous arrangement! For, having placed a chair upon a table to mount up to the top of an high screen, the whole fabric tumbled down, which put a stop to any further progress in the part for some time. Mrs. Stately intending to spend the Christmas at *Belle-vue*, invit-

ed Euterpe to accompany her there. They had not been long in the country before they were informed that Sir William Bon Ton and his Lady were arrived at Bon Ton Hall, Sir William having business which called him there, relative to the county militia, of which he was lieutenant-colonel. Mrs. Stately then proposed with Euterpe to go and spend a few days with them: they accordingly arrived at the Hall just as the Baronet and his lady had sat down to dinner with a very agreeable party of their friends. Near a week was spent with the utmost good humour, peace, and harmony; but Lady Bon Ton, who happened to be one of that species of females who are born to be a plague instead of a blessing to those with whom they are connected, contrived, at length, to make both her husband and visitors absolutely wretched by her egregious folly, fantastic airs, abominable extravagance, and decided inhumanity! for so we may call it, when a woman wantonly torments and makes the man miserable,

miserable, whose happiness and comfort ought to be her sole study and care ! But let the following FACT speak for itself.—The little party, being assembled round the breakfast table, Lady Bon Ton thus began:—“ I have received a letter “ this morning with a bill enclosed from “ my milliner, which I assure you,” addressing herself to her husband, “ will “ make you look a little serious;”— “ From your milliner, my dear ? ” replied the Baronet, “ it cannot be much then, “ because you know I paid her two hundred pounds but a few months ago, and “ I suppose you have not had many things “ since : but tell me how much it is ? ” Upon which her Ladyship kept on sipping her tea, and with a kind of an affected gaiety said, “ guess ! ” “ I cannot guess,” said he, “ perhaps it might be about forty “ or fifty pounds ! ”—“ Forty or fifty “ pounds, Sir William, you are not near “ the mark, guess again ? ”—“ Zounds, “ Betsy, what do you mean ? Why don’t “ you tell me at once, and not keep teaz- “ ing

"ing me in this foolish manner?"—"In-
 "deed I cannot, you will be quite fright-
 "ened, when you know how much it is ;
 "therefore I will not tell you now, lest
 "it should spoil your breakfast."—"This
 "is very odd behaviour in you, Betsy,
 "to keep tantalizing me in this ridiculous
 "style, and I do intreat you to tell me at
 "once; is it two hundred pounds?"—
 "Two hundred pounds!" replies her La-
 dyship, "why, you have not guessed near
 "half yet."—"By G— then," said the
 irritated Baronet, "this is more than I
 "can bear; and if you do not instantly
 "tell me what the sum may be, I will im-
 "mediately quit the house." He then
 got up, but seeing how much all the ladies
 were affected, except his wife, he politely
 begged their pardon for the disturbance
 occasioned by Lady Bon Ton's folly and
 impertinence, and declared he could
 bear it no longer! Lady B. then began
 to be a little confused, and was prevailed
 upon by Mrs. Stately to put her husband
 out of suspence, by telling him how much
 the

the bill came to ; upon which her Ladyship *condescended* to take the bill out of her pocket and threw it, rather saucily, upon the table, when the justly angered Baronet immediately snatching it up exclaimed with great emotion, What ? Five hundred pounds !! “ It cannot be; surely “ it must be a mistake, or meant by way “ of a joke, explain it, Betsy.”—“ Indeed “ it is no joke, Sir William, for I owe “ her that sum, and if you will please to “ give yourself the trouble to look over “ the bill you will see every article which “ I have had.” For some minutes he remained quite silent, as if lost in thought : then turning to Mrs. Stately, he said, “ There is not, Madam, a woman in Eng- “ land who dresses with more taste and “ elegance than yourself ; pray then, tell “ me, do you spend four or five hundred “ a year with your milliner ? ” This question was very embarrassing to Mrs. Stately, who knew that her answer must obliquely cast a reflection upon Lady Bon Ton, at whose house she was then enter.

entertained; but she was obliged to say something to appease her friend, Sir William, whom she highly esteemed and respected: "No, Sir," said she, "my bills " seldom come to more than two hundred " pounds a year at most, but that is no " rule, because some ladies wear more " costly lace than others, which will make " a very material difference, as it is an " article that may cost from five shillings " to five guineas a yard."—"Pray then," said he to his wife, "what have you had " that should come to such a prodigious " amount?"—"I have had," said she with a good deal of sang froid, "a great many " pair of silk stockings, fine holland shifts, " lace, muslin, and a variety of articles " which I cannot now recollect, but I " suppose, if you cast your eye over the " bill, you will see what I have had; but " I will look it over myself, by and by, to " see whether the *woman* has cast it up " right." Breakfast being finished, the company dispersed, but the rest of the day was not spent with the usual cheerfulness; indeed,

indeed, every one felt the utmost pity for poor Sir William, and execrated his unfeeling wife ! Euterpe, who deeply felt when she beheld others unhappy, went into Mrs. Stately's room to know what was *her* opinion in regard to Lady Bon Ton's conduct, " Is it possible, Madam," said she, " that Lady B. could have laid out " so much with a milliner in so short a " time ?"—" No, surely, child ; I would " not say much, but I am positive from " what I have seen her wear, she has " no lace of that very high price, nor any " thing else to equal that expence ; the " truth is, but I charge you take no notice " of what I say, that she has not had a " quarter of the things which are set down " in the bill, for it is no uncommon thing " for a woman, when she wants money, " either to give away to some favorite, or to " pay debts of honour, to order her milliner " (for in general they are *very convenient* " sort of people) to *make out* a bill to such " an amount, upon a promise of making " a *suitable return* !"—" What a wicked

" woman must she be," said Euterpe, " who
" can be so base as to cheat an husband
" in that infamous manner !! " Nay, I
" can tell you of a woman," continued
Mrs. Stately, " who makes use of other
means, which I think still worse. Not
long since, being distressed for cash, and
having had an unlucky run at cards,
she ordered her jeweller to pick some of
the best brilliants out of her necklace and
ear-rings which she sold and re-placed
them with false stones, and this she did
so often, that from having a very valua-
able set of jewels, she reduced them al-
most to be of little or no value, though
they appeared with equal lustre at
candle-light ; but it was found out in
the following manner. Her husband
having lost a considerable sum of money
at the gaming table, desired his wife to
let him have her jewels only for a few
days, as he wanted to borrow a sum of
money upon them, and promised she
should have them again in a short time.
His wife immediately brought them to
him,

" him, being under no apprehension of
 " the trick she had played him being dis-
 " covered, as she imagined they were
 " only to be given in *pawn* till her hus-
 " band had money to redeem them, and
 " that they would not undergo a strict
 " examination; but in this she was greatly
 " mistaken, and the *biter was bit!* for her
 " husband who intended to return them
 " to his wife as soon as he had sold the
 " best brilliants, and re-placed them with
 " *false ones*, ordered the jeweller to be as
 " quick as possible, who told him that he
 " could put in such fine *composition* as
 " would deceive the nicest eye, and pro-
 " ceeded to take out the largest brilliant
 " first, which, upon examination, he found
 " to be *paste.*" — " What," says the asto-
 " nished and disappointed husband, *paste?*
 " why, I gave so much for them, (nam-
 " ing the price) I will immediately go to
 " the man of whom I bought them, and
 " who must be an infamous rogue; surely
 " there are no more false stones; examine
 " well, I pray you.— Upon which the

" jeweller began to unset the greater part
" of them, when he found that all but the
" very small ones were *composition!*—Away
" went the husband in the most violent
" fury, with a full determination of bring-
" ing the r——ly jeweller to answer for
" his roguery before a court of justice;
" and the moment he arrived at his house,
" he beset him with the most opprobrious
" terms, threatening to expose him pub-
" licly for so impudent a fraud!—In
" what, Sir, says the jeweller?—In what,
" Sir! says the enraged husband, why I
" say, in being guilty of so infamous a
" fraud, as to sell me a pack of false stones
" instead of diamonds, throwing them all
" upon the counter before him.—Do not
" put yourself, Sir, into such a passion,
" said the jeweller, but be a little calm,
" and I will explain that matter to you
" presently. Your Lady, Sir, ordered
" me to pick out all the best brilliants, for
" which I paid her the following sum,
" which you may see in my books; and I
" put in according to her desire such fine
" compo-

" composition that no one could discover
 " it till they were taken out: therefore,
 " Sir, if your anger falls upon any one,
 " it must be on *your own* Lady, and not
 " on me!"

This is what may be truly called *Diamond cut Diamond*.

Euterpe then retired to her own chamber, where, young as she was, she spent some hours in deep reflection; contemplating the wretched conduct of such kind of women, at which she felt so much shocked and astonished, as almost to give her a disgust towards her own sex.

CHAP. XV.

THOUGHTS ON THE FOREGOING CHAPTER; THE DEPRAVITY WHICH SEEKS TO HAVE TAKEN SUCH DEEP ROOT IN THE HUMAN MIND IS INDISPUTABLY OWING TO THE NEGLECT OF RELIGION, WHICH IS THE SOLID BASIS OF EVERY VIRTUE.

THE recital of the above mentioned FACTS, evinces a most unnatural depravity; but, that such a depravity should possess the heart of any WOMAN, is indeed a most melancholy reflection! Heaven forbid that there should be many of this description! That the generality of young women of the present age are highly censurable, is very true; for that indiscreet levity of conduct, both in dress and manners, which has more the appearance of females of a *certain* description than that amiable character, the only one they ought

to

to assume, of modest, reserved, and innocent virgins. Yet, with all that folly, the heart may still be quite pure and uncorrupt; this we will allow; yet, small as those indiscretions may be without the least propensity to any vice, still they ought to be gently checked by a watchful friend in time, before the young mind becomes emboldened through custom, and hardens into vice! For it is not to be supposed that any person becomes vicious at once, no, it imperceptibly grows upon them, as with dram drinkers, who first begin with a very small quantity, and, by daily *increasing* it, become at last downright drunkards!

A feeling mind cannot but be greatly shocked to observe how much the English ladies, (once so renowned for prudence, modesty, and virtue, that they were even the admiration of every foreigner) are altered within these late years, both as to their dispositions and manners. In support of this opinion, we will quote a few stanzas composed by a late learned divine,

a few

a few years ago, on his return from the continent.

“ * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
 “ * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
 “ When once more Dover, I should touch thy strand
 “ A three year’s stranger to my native land !
 “ For, ah, three years have so deform’d its face,
 “ Its much lov’d features I can scarcely trace !
 “ E’en the soft sex’s pudency, our boast,
 “ Seems with each other charm to flee the coast.
 “ Where are the British Fair I left behind,
 “ Coyest and loveliest of the female kind,
 “ As chaste and modest as the unsunn’d snow,
 “ To angels neareft in this world below !
 “ But now, oh horror, as in Brothels bred,
 “ To the nice feelings of their honour dead,
 “ In her NO WAIST, each bold nymph seems to tell ye,
 “ With more than trumpet brafs, BEHOLD *** *****”

Such were the sentiments, though poetically expressed, of that late worthy and most respectable character Dr. W. We cannot therefore account for so strange a change in the female system, but from the reasons we have already given, and an erroneous mode of education in which more pains are taken with their external appearance

appearance, and frivolous occupations, than with their morals or the improvement of their minds. *First impressions* are indubitably the strongest, and are seldom or ever to be thoroughly eradicated whether they be good or bad. Infancy may be compared to a plant which, while it is young and tender, may be bent into any shape or form, but if neglected, will run wild and become too stubborn to yield to any guidance; it is therefore of infinite consequence that the young and yet unformed mind should be *very early* taught to distinguish in *what* true virtue and honour consists; and, above all things, to entertain a right notion of RELIGION, which is simply this:—to ADORE GOD, and to strictly adhere to the divine precepts of JESUS CHRIST, IN DOING UNTO OTHERS AS WE WOULD BE DONE UNTO! When once the heart is open to receive those impressions, and that they have taken deep root, it will not be in the power of even bad examples wholly to exterminate them. It is not to be doubted but that

one cause of that depravity among our females is owing to those seminaries called Boarding-schools ! we may venture to pronounce them to be, in general, highly improper for girls above the age of ten or eleven ; it is morally impossible where there are a great number of girls but there may be some few among them, who are disposed to be *vicious*, and if there be but *one* in an whole school, *that* one is sufficient to corrupt all the rest ! Lay but one rotten apple among an hundred that are found, and it shall contaminate them ALL ! But the men themselves, who are perpetually finding fault with the levity of the young women, are chiefly the *cause* of their own unhappiness with respect to the married state. They in general consider women but in one point of view, in which **PASSION** not **REASON** guides them ; they are captivated with their external charms, which soon pall on possession ; therefore if a young woman has no other attractions or merit but what depends upon her personal beauty, disgust succeeds

ceeds in the place of friendship and esteem! Another cause of female error arises in consequence of the strange and unaccountable *depravity* of some men! for we really believe, many a well disposed and amiable young woman has been led to be guilty of extreme levity and an indecorous kind of behaviour, from falsely imagining that by this kind of coquetry she should attract attention and appear more agreeable and captivating in the eyes of the men! We do not much wonder, indeed, that very young simple girls are mistakingly led into this error, when they find that so many men of rank and understanding, and who know the world, should be so depraved in mind, and possess so little delicacy of sentiment, as to prefer women of the most abandoned characters and loose morals as companions for life! and what is still more strange, to confer upon them the sacred and honourable title of **WIFE**!! Is not this a kind of discouragement to female virtue? If men were only to lead to the altar, women of strict virtue

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and modesty, instead of cast off courtezans, *attitudinarians*, and such kind of females, which are a disgrace to their sex, there is no doubt but it would have the desired effect, as it would be the infallible means of inculcating the love of virtue in the female breast, and of their recovering that general character for which they were formerly so renowned! But if the *morals* of young women were strictly attended to in their infancy, would there be so many unhappy and abandoned females (lost to every sense of shame) existing as there are, to a most alarming number, at this present time? Surely not; the *whole blame*, however, is not to be laid to the charge of female seminaries, though we shall take occasion hereafter to *explain* why much mischief is derived from a great number of girls associating with each other, unless they are under such restrictions as are absolutely necessary to prevent their falling into habits so common at schools. But without softening our former opinion, with respect to boarding-schools,

schools, candour forces us to confess, that all the mischief does not lie there! it often arises from an improper treatment, and ill conduct, in the parents themselves, particularly mothers, if they be unfortunately of a dissipated turn, which must prove the cause of much unhappiness, and sometimes the total ruin of their daughters, a wrong indulgence in permitting them without controul to choose improper books, or companions; sometimes treating them with too much severity, and oftentimes total neglect; in either case, the effects frequently prove fatal! *Severity added to neglect*, and the want of that maternal care which a tender mother would naturally take who is anxious for her daughter's spiritual as well as temporal happiness, was the real cause of poor Belinda's fall! —a fatal fall indeed!—such as must awaken the feelings of every heart, and shock humanity to hear, nor can we recite the sad tale, without dropping a tear to highly injured innocence!! It is very true that it sometimes happens in spite of

all

all a parent's care, some unlucky circumstance will arise unforeseen, that may blast the hopes and destroy the happiness and comfort of a whole family ! In that case the parent receives *some* consolation in the reflection that she has done her duty, and has nothing to reproach herself with ; but in the case of the lovely innocent and unfortunate girl, whose story we are going to relate, the *blame* seems to lay at the *mother's* door ! and those who knew her Ladyship's temper and disposition will easily suppose that this is not *merely* a surmise ; although arrived at the advanced age of sixty and upwards, her Ladyship had not lost her taste for worldly pleasures ; an immoderate love for which, had led her into such expences that she found it necessary for her and her amiable family to retire to a lonely old fashioned mansion situated in an obscure village, in order to retrieve the reduced state of their finances ! Her elder daughters being absent on a visit to some of their friends, Belinda was the only one who was left at home.

home with her parents at DULL CASTLE. Belinda loved reading, but as it is natural for most young people to prefer books that *amuse* instead of such as *instruct*, (for the one, generally *favours* the passions, whilst the latter acts as a *safeguard* to prevent the indulging of them) she read only novels and romances, the generality of which (particularly *novels*, for there is some difference betwixt the two compositions) oftener tend to corrupt, than improve the mind; nor have we the least doubt, from what we have been informed by one who lived in the family at the time, that her reading of *love tales*, added to her own unhappiness, on account of the melancholy life she led, was the fatal cause of her death! The romantic idea of a *garden scene* in a moon light night so possessed the mind of that unfortunate girl, that she was easily prevailed upon to listen to the artifice of a designing knave, and the wicked advice of a corrupt female servant. The dreadful consequences which followed, ought to be a warning to

other

other young women, who are tempted to realize the situation of an highly finished heroine, created by the fertile and luxurious imagination of a lascivious novel writer. A novel which sets vice in an amiable light, like the character of Macheath in the Beggar's Opera, or strains even virtue beyond the power of human nature to imitate, is equally dangerous to a young and susceptible mind, and the former but too often exhibits a pleasing picture which cannot fail of being destructive to the morals: it is like administering a deadly poison concealed in a delicious sweet-meat. That there are many exceptions, is not to be disputed, we are not to rank the elegant novels of a Richardson, a Fielding, a Burney, &c. it is true, in the above mentioned class, but what are these few exceptions to the bulk of trash with which every circulating library abounds, to the disgrace and scandal of literature, as well as the bane and destruction of every young female, who are permitted to peruse those fictitious tales of love, which are

are as pernicious to innocence and virtue, as they are void of *truth* and probability! however, the dangerous consequence of permitting the lovely Belinda to peruse these *sentimental tales*, will appear as follows.—When all the family were retired to rest, she went into the garden to meet her lover, who was not only a *married* man, but that *sort* of man, which one would have thought scarce possible to have caught the heart of a girl, who had, all her life, been accustomed to converse with people of high rank and education; for he had neither breeding, figure, or indeed any requisite to recommend him to any thing higher than a Welch farmer's daughter: nay, we are persuaded, if it had been any where else than in a melancholy, remote, old fashioned house, situated among the *black* mountains in Wales, she would not have honoured him with the least notice! A very celebrated French writer has given it as her opinion, that nothing can be more dangerous for a young woman than solitude: it certainly

is so; unless she has free access to a well chosen library, and some other rational amusements, to employ her thoughts and time; but in the case of poor Belinda, it was far otherwise; *she* had none of these resources, for though a girl of fashion, she had been so ill educated, that she was not mistress of any one accomplishment; she heard no music but the notes of the doleful cuckoo; read no books but novels and romances; very seldom saw any company but the old Welch parson who came to play at backgammon with her father, or picquet with her mother; she conversed chiefly with her own maid, who became her *confidant*, and was at the bottom of a fatal intrigue, which was discovered in the following manner—Her father, Sir William Worthy, being rather indisposed after supper, ordered the housekeeper to bring him some water gruel after he was in bed. Belinda, who had retired earlier than usual to her own apartment, was ignorant of this circumstance, and imagined that the housekeeper was gone to rest,

when

when she was attending upon Sir William; but the latter, on quitting her master's room, happened to pass by that of her young lady, and observing her candle was not put out, she went in; when, to her astonishment, she found that Belinda had left the room: after staying some time in expectation of her return, her patience was exhausted, and she went down stairs, when she perceived that the garden door was unchained: she then went out to call her, but receiving no answer, she immediately went up to her master, and informed him that his daughter was missing! The whole house was presently in the utmost confusion and consternation! Sir William (who doted upon his daughter) kept crying out, Belinda is gone off, Belinda is gone off! Saddle the horses, take different roads! In short, poor Sir William was frantic with despair! Mr. T—, who happened to be there on a visit with his son (the present Lord A—y) and from whom we heard this melancholy story, advised the family first to examine every

corner of the garden, before the servants were sent in pursuit of the young lady; his advice being taken, they perceived close to the fish-pond, the impression of her feet, and likewise a string hanging upon a bush near the water, which, on examination, appeared to be her apron string! This gave Mr. T. a suspicion that she had drowned herself, or had been *thrown* in, and the latter has since been the prevailing opinion. He therefore requested of Sir William to give immediate orders for having the pond dragged! but it was *over-ruled* by her Ladyship, who said, she did not at all doubt but she was gone off with some *fellow*! Such sort of *vulgarisms* were very apt to escape her Ladyship, especially when she was at any time provoked.—Again, the servants were ordered to saddle the horses, and take different roads in pursuit of her. Mr. T. then asked Sir William whether any of the neighbouring gentlemen came often to his house, and if he had perceived his daughter's partiality to any one in particular?

iar?—He replied that there was but one, besides the old Rector, who came very often, but that *he* was rather a mean kind of man; and, besides he was married; then, said Mr. T. on hearing *who* it was, I am determined to go immediately to his house, and I shall soon perceive if he be a party concerned in her flight; indeed, from the little I have seen of him, I think he appears a very artful man, and I recollect, when he was walking the other evening with Miss Belinda, he seemed to pay her more attention than is usual for a man to do, unless he has some design in making himself particularly agreeable to the Lady to whom he pays so much assiduity. It was between two and three in the morning, when Mr. T. arrived at the house of Mr. D. who was suspected to be the lover of Belinda—he knocked loudly at the door, upon which D. opened the window completely dressed except his coat; *that* circumstance alone, was quite sufficient to convince Mr. T. that he had not been

in

in bed ;—when he came down, Mr. T. asked him, *where* was Miss Belinda ?—D. turned pale, looked confused, paused for a moment, then with a tremulous accent, replied, how should *he* know ? Mr. T. then took him by the collar, saying, if he did not immediately produce her, or say *where* she was concealed, he should forthwith be examined before a magistrate to answer upon oath, the questions which would be put to *him* ! Nevertheless, continued Mr. T. if you will confide in me, and tell me where she is, I will not only endeavour to restore peace to an afflicted family, but obtain pardon for *you* ; for I know full well, how to make allowances for those who love ; to which D. very *rudely* replied, that *he* knew nothing about her, and he did not think her a Beauty worth taking such pains for ! Mr. T. not knowing very well what to think, when he found D. so boldly persisting in his innocence, took his leave, but not without having a strong *suspicion* of his guilt,

and

and hastened back to DULL CASTLE, where he arrived just as they had dragged the pond and found, *too late*, the body of the unfortunate Belinda!! Her father, poor old man, died soon after, of a broken heart; and the antiquated dame her mother, to dissipate her EXCESSIVE grief, ——What?—Why, at her house in town, a few months after, Mr. T. found her Ladyship engaged with a very large card party!!—But this is high life, and THE SPIRIT OF FASHION!

CHAP. XVI.

FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON THE FORE-GOING CHAPTER. THE IMPROPRIETY OF EMPLOYING *MEN* UPON EVERY OCCASION INSTEAD OF WOMEN, IS POINTED OUT.

THE story of the unfortunate Belinda affords fresh occasion for deep contemplation, and leads to a repetition of our former observations, with respect to the increasing profligacy of the age! The little regard that is paid to the FIRST and most important object, RELIGION, the reading of *inflammatory* novels, and the copying the dissipated manners of the foreign women, &c. all tend to corrupt the heart, and if once the heart be corrupted, the step is but a very short one, to the full indulgence of the passions. The indelicate custom also of employing *men*, where there would

would be much more propriety in employing their own sex is *another* cause why young women at a very early period of life, begin to lose their natural diffidence, modesty, and bashfulness; and consequently from being accustomed to have their persons familiarly handled by the men whom they employ as staymakers, hair-dressers, &c. they at length become so emboldened, that they submit to the most indecorous freedoms from others, without a blush! Thus they easily become a prey to designing men, before they have the least idea of the danger they are in, and the snares that are laid for them! We do not mean to insinuate that *men* professors are always preferred from any vicious propensities in the women, but merely because it is more FASHIONABLE! Hence it is, that *men midwives* are employed! Those who are led into this preposterous custom *because* it is fashionable, and thought more genteel for the doctor's chariot to appear at the door, rather than an old woman trudging in, on foot, act perhaps more innocently than

some other women, who under the cloak of it being *necessary* to consult a *doctor*, indulge (without any appearance of acting with the least indecorum) their own wanton propensities! or else, why permit a man to attend them *before* the time of their labour is expected to come on? and even then, there is no *real* occasion, ninety-nine times in an hundred, for their being called in at all; as NATURE in that case, if she be left to herself, will perform her office with more safety to the mother and child, than when they run the risque of being injured by the use of *instruments*, which but too frequently happens! We do not however mean to deny, that *men* may be allowed with propriety in *acute* labour, in a case which it is supposed requires the skill of a *surgeon*; this is certainly reasonable, if the mind of the patient be impelled with the smallest idea of danger, and that their persons are *safest* under the skilful hands of a *surgeon* than with a woman; but what excuse can be framed for sending for a *doctor*, in an *early* state of pregnancy?

pregnancy? and sometimes without being certain they are pregnant at all!! In the name of decency and common sense what reason can there be alledged for such an indelicate proceeding? That *it is* done is a fact, and one instance we will recite which happened but a short time since in the neighbourhood of Red Lion-square. A beautiful young married lady as she was going with a party of her friends to an Exhibition at Somerset House, was just entering into her own carriage, when she perceived her man-midwife appear at her door in his; she immediately made an apology for returning again in doors, when she was followed by her doctor, who stayed with her about a quarter of an hour, whilst her husband and friends were waiting for her in the carriage! She at length returned, rather flustered and confused, made a thousand awkward excuses, for letting them wait so long, when her husband, with a fallen countenance, demanded of her what could have detained her so long, what could she have got to

say, as she was in perfect health and ailed nothing? She replied with great simplicity, that she wanted to be informed whether or no she was with child? One of the party who related to us this curious anecdote, was a dignified clergyman; and his remark upon so *indecent* a conduct was as severe as we fear was justly merited! There is no one can hold the faculty in higher estimation than we do, particularly the surgeons, as a most useful set of men to the community at large; it is not, therefore, against that respectable body of men that we speak, but against the absurd and immodest custom of women employing them, when there is *no real occasion for it!* If we were to mention the infinite number of women who have been injured from the use of *instruments* by which their persons have been rendered *obnoxious* to their husbands, as well as the number of children who have been sacrificed in the birth (a *cruel* instance of which we know to be a fact, but cannot with *decency* repeat) owing to the use of *instruments*, it would

would fill a volume, and appal the minds of every female, who might read it, with horror and astonishment! This is a truth that cannot be contradicted, while such a book as Dr. Smellie's *Lectures to his Pupils* exists! The late learned Dr. N. wrote a treatise on the abominable custom of employing men midwives, except in very extraordinary cases and unnatural births; it is intituled the PETITION OF THE UNBORN BABES.—Mrs. Kennon, midwife to the late Princess of Wales, was so pleased with it, that when she was upon her death bed, she squeezed a five hundred pound bank note into the Doctor's hand. It is constantly alledged, among ladies, by way of an apology for preferring the men, that the women midwives are ignorant and not possessed of sufficient anatomical knowledge! Then let it be asked, *who* brought our most Gracious Sovereign into the world? — a *woman*; — (Mrs. Kennon.) Who brought the present Heir Apparent and all the rest of her Majesty's lovely progeny into the world (except one) a *woman*!

Mrs.

(Mrs. Draper.) One would have thought the virtuous and modest examples of these noble personages would have been followed by every female of sense and delicacy in the kingdom! but enough has been said to prove the *danger* and the *indelicacy* of employing men, except in cases where it may be absolutely necessary!

CHAP. XVII.

MRS. STATELY AND EUTERPE ARRIVED IN TOWN. LADY ELIZABETH TUDOR GIVES A GRAND ROUT, TO WHICH EUTERPE IS INVITED.

MRS. Stately and Euterpe having left Bon Ton Hall, they spent a few days at *Belle-vue* before they returned to the metropolis. Mrs. Stately, being informed that there was to be a grand masquerade at the Opera House, obligingly

obligingly offered a ticket to Euterpe, requesting the favour of her to be of the party. This offer Euterpe politely declined, *not* because she did not like to go, but because her mother had pointed out *that* kind of public amusement as the most dangerous to female virtue; such was Euterpe's respect for the advice of a parent, though dead, to whom she owed every sentiment of honour which has guided her actions through life. This *self denial* in so young a girl, whose natural curiosity would have been greatly gratified in beholding one of the most splendid exhibitions that possibly can be imagined, nay be ranked among some of those prudent resolutions, which more than once saved her from falling into those snares, which but too often prove fatal to youth and innocence. Having received an invitation from Lady Elizabeth Tudor to her rout near Cavendish-square, Euterpe went there in company with the Earl and Countess of Guernsey, with whom she had dined. Among the visitors were the

Duchesses

Dutcheffes of P. and B—r; the D—, Lady B—n, her son, the Viscount, the Duke of M. the two ladies H—y, and may others whom we do not now recollect. A circumstance happened that evening which gave Lord G. great hopes that he should be the means of breaking off the connection between Lady Elizabeth T. and Euterpe, which, he thought, prevented his designs from succeeding upon that young girl; who, having sung some duets with Lord D. her Grace of P. signified her wish to Mr. Tudor of hearing Euterpe play on the viol, as she was universally allowed to excell upon that instrument. Mr. Tudor accordingly entreated the favour of Euterpe to send for her viol, which was, at that very time, at Lord Guernsey's house; to this proposition she readily assented; but the Earl whispering his Lady, she called Euterpe to her by her husband's order, and desired her to refuse sending for it, under a pretence that some accident might happen to it from the *carelessness* of the servants. This foolish excuse not only greatly offended

the

the Dutches, but was the cause of very high words between Mr. T. and the Earl. Lord B. who loved fun, highly enjoyed this squabble, took the part of Mr. T. against the Peer, and strongly solicited Euterpe to send for the instrument. It is easy to conceive her embarrassment; as she was much hurt to perceive that her refusal had offended a friend whom she honoured and esteemed; and, on the other hand, she dared not refuse the hard injunctions laid upon her by those who it was her interest to oblige, or rather to obey. After the company were departed she, for some time, wept bitterly while she was obliged to hear the keen and just reproaches of her offended friends, whom she endeavoured to appease by every persuasive argument in her power! Every one who was present must have perceived the drift of the subtle courtier; who, finding his scheme had not succeeded, sent a few weeks after, an invitation to Mr. Tudor and Lady Elizabeth, to meet Euterpe at dinner in Grosvenor-square. He

now began to shew Mr. T. and his Lady uncommon attention, and took infinite pains to gain their favour; he lamented that a man of Mr. Tudor's abilities had not higher rank in the army, and told him, he had been just informed that the Governor of —— was dead, that the appointment was worth at least a thousand pounds a year, and, if it would be agreeable to him to accept of it, he was very sure he had interest to procure it for him. Upon which Mr. T. returned his Lordship many thanks for his *obliging* offer of *sending him out of the kingdom*, and interesting himself so much in his favour, but that he was very well contented with his present appointment, though it was not half so lucrative; where (to make use of Mr. Tudor's own words) he was *only* up to the *chin* in hot water, but he knew, he said, enough of the other garrison, to be very sensible that he should be *there*, soon over *head and ears*; besides, continued Mr. T. it is in a part of the world, that, of all others, he detested, and would not change that
which

which he had for the other, though of ten times its value. *That* scheme failing likewise, the insinuating Earl turned the conversation on the subject of Euterpe. His words were so *pointed* and so remarkable, that we will give them verbatim ;— “ I think, Mr. T. you admire Euterpe ? ” —“ Yes, my Lord,” replied Mr. T. “ I do, and *you* taught me, by pointing out to me her good qualities.” —“ Then,” replied the Earl, “ let me *unteach* you.” “ *That*, my Lord, is not so easily done, I profess myself to be her stedfast friend, and nothing can ever alter my sentiments.” This conversation ended, his Lordship presented Euterpe to the Duke of D——, in whose power it was to dispose of the place of maids of honour; when Euterpe received a promise of being named on the first vacancy : the Earl emphatically told the Duke it would most particularly oblige him if his Grace would confer upon Euterpe that honour, as both he and the Countess had a very great regard for her ; and continued speaking of her to his

Grace in the highest terms. The Countess coming up to the Duke, Euterpe told her Ladyship how kind the Earl had been in speaking to the Duke, who had graciously given his promise to get her named on the first vacancy as maid of honour, when her Ladyship was pleased to speak herself to his Grace upon the subject in the presence of Euterpe, who was not a little elated at so much pains being taken to serve her in a matter she had so much at heart. Mr. Tudor, a few days after, paid a visit to the Viscountess D. B. when she informed him of the conversation which had passed between her Ladyship and the Countess of G. which is as follows.—“Every body,” says Lady B. “is surprised that your Ladyship countenances Euterpe.”—“Why,” says the Countess, “I thought she was a great favorite of yours?”—“It is very true,” replied the Dowager, “I like her much, and think she is at present a very good girl, but that you should countenance and appear so fond of her is the affliction

" nishment of every one, it being so well known that Lord G. is greatly attached to her, and is as *constant* in his visits to her, as he is in his assiduities to gain her affections!"—"True," replied the Countess, "I am not as you or others imagine *blind* to his new attachment, but what is it to me who has his heart, for I have lost it long ago; and I should prefer his being attached to Euterpe, whose conduct hitherto must ever endear her to me, as she shews me every attention in her power, than to that woman with whom he has been so long connected, and who has treated me like a dog; but whom, I believe, he has totally left for Euterpe; as he has forsaken *Rotten-row*, for the *New-road*, for so I have been informed by the servant who generally attends him in his morning airings. I really believe that Euterpe is perfectly innocent, and she does not seem to make any use of her power over my Lord, whom she treats with equal reserve as respect; while my kindness

“ kindness to her may save her from ruin.
“ nor will I ever alter my behaviour to-
“ wards her, whilst she continues to con-
“ duct herself in the manner she has al-
“ ready done.”—“ Your Ladyship’s argu-
“ ments,” replied Lady B. “ cannot but be
“ approved, yet it is but a mortifying situ-
“ ation, I think, to be obliged to be upon
“ good terms with a rival.”—“ I am under
“ no *obligation*, most certainly,” says the
Countess, “ to visit her at all, and if I were
“ to drop her acquaintance, it might be
“ probably the ready means of her listen-
“ ing to Lord G. if it were only perhaps
“ out of pique and resentment to me; it
“ would, therefore, be but policy in me
“ to be kind to her, supposing I cared
“ about his loving her, which, to say the
“ truth, I do not; for if it were not her,
“ that he had fixed his affections upon, it
“ would most likely be some other, and as
“ long as he conducts himself towards me
“ with kindness and attention, I am very
“ well satisfied; so it is all one to me now,
“ who has his heart; and it may be in my
“ power,

" power, by treating her with kindness, to " prevent her ruin." The above conversation was thus related to Euterpe with additional reproaches from Mr. Tudor, who told her, she ought not to admit of the Earl's visits any more, but spurn him from her if she *had* any regard for her reputation, which would be certainly blasted, if she were to be so imprudent as to permit him to continue his visits. It is easier to conceive than express Euterpe's feelings, when she found that her patroness, for whom she had the highest respect and esteem, was no stranger to the Earl's attachment! She felt ashamed at the thoughts of ever appearing again before her, and Mr. T. also made her believe that the Countess was *compelled* to countenance her, though she did not discover that to Lady B. This, Euterpe could scarcely believe was true, as her Ladyship's kind attention to her seemed to flow naturally from the heart, and she was unwilling to think she was the cause of unhappiness to another. A few mornings after,

after, the Countess paid Euterpe a visit, when she was determined to find out, if possible, whether the Countess' behaviour was natural or forced. The moment she entered the room she accosted Euterpe with a look so benign, and with such maternal tenderness, that Euterpe burst into tears. "What, my dear child, is the matter?" said the Countess, "why do you seem so afflicted?" Euterpe kissed her hand, which she bathed with her tears, but could not make any reply. The Countess then, tenderly embracing her, insisted upon her opening her heart:—"Tell me, I conjure you, Euterpe, what has happened to make you thus uneasy?"—"I cannot, Madam, but you overwhelm me with your kindness."—"Has your father been angry with you?"—"No, Madam,"—"Has any one affronted you?"—"No, Madam," replied Euterpe, still weeping,—"Tell me then, I intreat you, child, your distresses."—"I cannot, Madam:" at the same time taking hold of her Ladyship's hand

hand to kiss,—"Then," says the Countess,
 "may I guess?" — "No, Madam." *
 — "Then," replied her Ladyship, "I think
 "I can, by your unwillingness to tell me,
 "form a conjecture: it is, Euterpe, my
 "Lord G. that is the cause of your af-
 "fliction: tell me, am I not right?" Eute-
 "rpe still weeping, kissed her Patroness's
 hand again, and remained silent! — "By
 "your silence, Euterpe, and not denying
 "it, I have found out the cause, but
 "do not be alarmed at my knowing it;
 "only observe what I am going to say;
 "keep yourself innocent, my dear child,
 "above all things, and I shall always love
 "and esteem you, and be your stedfast
 "friend. You must not listen to all that
 "men say; every man, both married and
 "single, is perpetually endeavouring to
 "seduce youth and innocence; but I
 "know you have good sense, and will

* This answer shews plainly the confusion of Eu-
 terpe, who was fearful that the Countess should find
 out the *real* cause of her distressed state of mind.

" profit by my advice, which will put you
" upon your guard. You must laugh at
" all they say, which is the surest method
" to convince them, that they have made
" no impression on your heart; for, if
" once a man discovers that he has pre-
" possessed a woman in his favour, he will
" not quit her till she is completely un-
" done! Do not I charge you unfold to
" my Lord, who, I suppose you will see
" to-day, the conversation that has passed
" between us; be cheerful and gay, and
" let nothing that men can say in the least
" affect you, particularly a *married* man;
" I will repeat it again, keep yourself in-
" nocent, my dear child!" The Countess
had not been long gone before the
Earl came in; when Euterpe endeavoured
to appear unusually gay, and smiled at
all he said, which conduct rather chagrined
his Lordship, as he had formed
some hopes of gaining her affections,
when he found he could move her heart
to pity; but as he had no suspicion of
the conversation which had passed be-
tween

tween his Countess and Euterpe, he began to think that Euterpe's unusual indifference was owing to some advice of her friends near Cavendish-square. He then repeated his offer of settling eight hundred pounds a year upon her, added to a promise of marriage when it should be in his power; upon which Euterpe, who was determined to put in practice the advice of the Countess, only laughed; when the angry Earl got up very much disconcerted, saying, *now I plainly perceive by your behaviour, you either hate me, or else you are influenced by some body to treat me in this manner, which is so unnatural and so unlike your general conduct.* I flattered myself you felt some tenderness for me, I indulged myself with the pleasing hopes of one day or other calling you mine; but I see that somebody has been endeavouring to destroy all my happiness; for, believe me, my dearest girl, all my happiness is centered in you; the Earl then took his leave, but meeting with Euterpe's father in the hall,

U 2 they

they both retired for half an hour in the parlour, and there held a private conversation that produced those effects, which will appear in the following chapter.

C H A P. XVIII.

EUTERPE'S DISTRESS OF MIND IS GREATLY INCREASED AT HER FATHER'S INSISTING UPON HER BREAKING OFF WITH HER FRIENDS NEAR CAVENDISH-SQUARE. HER FATHER OUTRAGEOUSLY ANGRY WITH HER FOR DISOBEDIING HIS COMMANDS. SHE QUILTS HER FATHER'S HOUSE; BUT IS COMPELLED TO RETURN TO IT, AND FINDS A NEW LOVER WHERE SHE LEAST EXPECTED ONE.

EUTERPE, being quite perfect in the part of *Juliet*, proposed to pay a visit to *Cordelia*, and rehearse, before that inimitable

mitable actress, with a view of receiving some instructions. Having informed her father of her design, he seemed very much pleased, and asked her where she intended to pass the evening if *Cordelia* should not be at home? Euterpe replied, if that should be the case, Sir, I intend calling upon Lady Elizabeth Tudor: "No," says he, "I do not approve of your going so often there, for I tell you plainly that your visits there, will totally marr your interest with Lord and Lady Guernsey, who do not like that family; and why should you sacrifice your fortune for the sake of either Lady Elizabeth or Mr. Tudor, let them be ever so agreeable to you; is it worth while, merely for passing away a pleasant hour, now and then, to give up the friendship of those who can really serve you? Consider your real interest, my dear, it is your own fault if you do not obtain the rank of an English peeress: *some* things towards that attainment must be waived! Do not be too nice; you may carry your

" your delicacy to a greater length than
 " in worldly prudence you ought. Peo-
 " ple are respected for the figure they
 " make in life, and all the virtue and me-
 " rit you can possess, will not insure you
 " respect *without* rank and fortune. Your
 " ideas are much too romantic for one
 " who is to live in this world: if you
 " mean to be a *recluse*, that's another affair,
 " but if you propose to mix in society
 " you must endeavour to gain respect,
 " which cannot be done, I repeat it once
 " more, without rank and fortune; and I
 " have given you an education which will
 " put you on a level with the first people:
 " you will, therefore, be highly to blame
 " if you do not pursue the road to fortune
 " which is before you: it is my advice,
 " therefore, my dear, that you drop that
 " connection, however painful it may be
 " to you." Euterpe was thunder-struck!
 — "What, Sir," said she, "am I prohi-
 " bited then to see those friends whom
 " you yourself so highly approved of?
 " Must I give them up for no other rea-
 " son

" son but to *oblige* the man who endeavours to seduce me? It is true, he says, his intentions are to marry me, but how can any one say if ever it will be in his power? for though the Countess is older than him, and likewise very infirm, she may yet live longer than her husband, and then, my character is gone for ever!" — "It is not very probable, my dear," said her father, "that what you furnish will be the case; the Countess is not only much older, but any one may perceive, from her state of health, that she cannot live much longer; and would you lose the chance that is offered you of being a Peereess, and till then, a settlement of eight hundred pounds a year, with the place of maid of honour? and I will add to it, two hundred pounds a year myself. This, surely, is worth your serious consideration!" Upon which he left the room, and his daughter in tears; but the servant coming in to inform her the carriage was at the door, she went into

into her father's apartment to entreat the favour of him to accompany her to *Cordelia's*; but he told her he had very particular business which prevented him, at the same time, giving her a kiss, he bid her go and take her companion with her. Euterpe's companion having an acquaintance in Piccadilly, she sat her down, and promised to call upon her in her way home. Being in the coach alone, she had time to reflect on her father's conduct. It was the very first time in her life she ever thought her father, whom she loved with unbounded affection, was cruel and unjust. Lord G. in spite of his age, was but too agreeable to her, so much so, that she lamented he was a *married* man. But the idea of losing her fame and character shocked her to the soul; and if she did not receive his addresses, she should disoblige a parent, whose study it was to make her happy. With these melancholy reflections and with an aching heart, she arrived at the door of *Cordelia*, whom she found at home, but engaged with a large party

party at cards. She then went to Caven-dish-square, *not* with an intention to stay, but to pour forth her affliction in the bosom of friendship. The astonishment and indignation with which Mr. Tudor and Lady Elizabeth heard the cruel commands of Euterpe's father, was strongly painted in their countenances! — They expressed their sentiments of him with so much acrimony, and made such severe comments on his conduct, that stung her to the heart, she acknowledged his error, but wished to find some excuse to extenuate his fault, as he really possessed many amiable qualities; for he was actuated by vanity alone, being dazzled with the idea of her becoming a Peereſſ! — She then took her leave, but not before Lady Elizabeth and Mr. Tudor had insisted upon her leaving her father's house, if the acceptance of his Lordship's proposals continued to be carried by paternal authority: assuring her, at the same time, that *their* house was always open to receive and protect her. Euterpe, after thanking

them for this additional mark of their friendship, stepped into her carriage, cautioning her own servants not to mention her having been at Lady Elizabeth's, nor even to let her companion know upon whom she was to call in her way back. But soon as she arrived at her father's house, the first question she asked was if he was at home? Being answered in the affirmative, she felt deeply distressed at the thoughts of deceiving him; for whatever errors might be laid to Euterpe's charge, she was no ways reproachable for that of duplicity! On her entering the room, she embraced her father, as was her usual custom, when he asked her where she had been? She told him at *Cordelia's*.—“and “no where else?” said he—“No, Sir,” she replied. He then left the room, but returned again in a few minutes with an alteration of countenance, which greatly alarmed his trembling daughter.—“So, “my dear,” said he, “you not only dis- “obey my positive commands, but add “deceit to disobedience; by G—— this is
“the

"the last time you shall ever enter that house!" saying which, he took up Burn's Justice, which he had been reading, and threw it with violence upon the fire, then smashed to pieces all the glass and china which lay in his way, destroyed the glass doors of a very fine book-case, and was so very outrageous, that not only Euterpe but all the servants were terrified; and even the footman, who had treacherously betrayed her, was very much frightened to see the effects of his infidelity to his mistress, after giving a promise to conceal from her father where she had been: nor would he have done it if avarice had not got the better of his honesty, for his master bribed him with half a guinea to tell the truth! The next morning, as soon as her father was gone out, she took an hackney coach and drove away to Lady Elizabeth Tudor's, where she was received with every mark of affection; she had not, however, been there but two days, before her father came at twelve o'clock at night, attended by four

of Fielding's men, and carried her off in triumph! The first thing she beheld, on being forced into the coach, were two men with their swords drawn! She could only distinguish their swords by the light cast upon them from the flambeaux; as their faces were concealed with their handkerchiefs. She then asked her father (being under the greatest terror of mind) whether he meant to murder her? No, Madam, said one of the men, we come as your protectors; and not as your murderers. As soon as she was conducted into her father's house, she fainted away; on her recovery she found herself in her father's arms, who was weeping over her, and a Mr. A—d also in tears! Before we proceed further, it may be necessary to explain *who* that gentleman was; his person was remarkably handsome, a good address, perfectly well bred, and a man of letters, but what is of *more* importance with the world, he was a man of large fortune: for some months he had been a constant visitor at the house of Euterpe,

to whom he shewed every attention and respect, but never gave the most distant hint of that partiality for her which it seemed he had long felt: but when he found that she had quitted her father's house to *avoid* Lord G. his astonishment was equal to the secret pleasure he felt in finding that her affections were not engaged. On hearing that she had taken refuge at Lady Elizabeth Tudor's, he went to pay her a visit, but Mr. Tudor informed him, that Euterpe would not see any company: and it was *he* who had prevailed upon Mr. F. to fetch his daughter home, whom he accompanied with another gentleman, and followed by Fielding's people, in case of resistance. In what manner they succeeded, we have already described. Mr. A. being left alone with Euterpe he, for the first time, declared, but in the most respectful terms, the impression she had made on his heart, which, he said, would long since have been communicated to her, but that he thought he should have no chance of succeed-

succeeding, while she was addressed by the Earl of G---y ; finding, however, that she had absolutely refused to listen any longer to the Earl's proposals, he flattered himself that he should be able to impress her heart in his favour, at the same time he confess that it was by *his* advice, her father had brought her back again : Euterpe acknowledged that she was truly sensible of the honour he did her, and that she always had felt the most perfect esteem for him as a *friend*, but she entreated him never to talk to her on the score of *love*, for she had been made sufficiently wretched by listening so long to a man whom she should have preferred above all others, if he had been single. " Then," says Mr. A. " you still love him ? " — " No, " Sir, I do not love him, I fear if I had, I should not have had the courage or prudence to have quitted my father's house to avoid him." — " Then, Madam, your affections are totally disengaged ? " — " Yes, Sir," — " Then I flatter myself, that I may still be happy ! " —

" And

" And is this, Sir," said Euterpe, " the method you take to gain my affections, by taking me with violence out of the house of my friend, who was seized and infamously treated by a pack of hired ruffians, and, for ought I know assassins? Such proceedings, as yours, Sir, would rather impress my heart with terror than with love." He confess he was driven to use that force, as he despaired of ever having an opportunity of speaking to her, as Mr. Tudor had refused him not only admittance, but even to convey a letter to her, which he supposed she never had seen, as it was returned *unopened*; a friend, also, whom he had sent was denied even speaking to her! Euterpe's father entering the room, put an end to the conversation, when Mr. A. took his leave, on being invited by Mr. F. to dine with him the next day.

CHAP. XIX.

EUTERPE KEPT A CLOSE PRISONER IN HER FATHER'S HOUSE. SHE IS DETERMINED TO MAKE HER ESCAPE THE FIRST FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITY WHICH OFFERS ITSELF.

EUTERPE was too much indisposed to make her appearance till the next evening, when she found her *new* lover anxiously waiting for her. He repeated all that he had said before, and endeavoured to move her heart to love and pity. She was not blind to his perfusions; for, indeed, he possessed every quality that could render a man truly amiable, but she could *only* esteem him as a *friend*, for as a *lover* she detested him. In Friendship we are guided by REASON alone, but LOVE is too despotic a dæmon to admit of any guide but its own caprice. This
tempts

tempts us to recite *Rousseau's* sentiments on the subject.

" Ce n'est point par effort qu'on aime,
 " L'amour est jaloux de ses droits
 " Il ne dépend de lui même;
 " On ne l'obtient que par son choix,
 " Tout reconnoît sa loi suprême,
 " Lui seul ne connaît point de lois."

Euterpe was kept a close prisoner for near three weeks, nor was she even permitted to go down stairs without being watched; while the hall-door was constantly barricadoed: Mr. A. whose company once gave her great pleasure, now became hateful to her, she beheld him only as a spy upon her actions, and her father was sure he had her safe, while she was guarded by a man who wanted to secure her for himself. Her companion, however, hinted to her that her father intended to send her with Mr. A. to Jamaica, where most of that gentleman's property lay, and where her uncle was then the A—y G—I; not doubting but Mr. A. would so well plead his cause,

during the voyage, as to get her to consent to their being married on their arrival there. Euterpe was frantic with despair on being informed of this plot against her; Mr. F. who really loved his daughter with great affection, began to be alarmed for her health, he therefore begged of her to be more cheerful, and promised to take her out with him every day. He accordingly took her to Grimsted's, the jeweller, where he presented her with a very beautiful pair of pearl bracelets, with Cameo lockets,* of £70. value, and at the same time ordered the jeweller to shew her a very fine ring, consisting of a large amethyst set in a double row of brilliants; but as much as she loved costly ornaments, her honour was superior to her vanity; for returning her father her most grateful thanks, she begged leave to decline the presents! This refusal brought tears into her father's eyes, and greatly astonished the jeweller, who said

* They were purchased by Lady Vane a few weeks after.

said it was the first time in his life he ever knew a daughter refuse a valuable present from a father!—Mr. F. saw plainly by this refusal, that his daughter was determined to leave him, which was exactly the truth: it would therefore have been ungenerous to have taken them, when it was her fixed resolution to make her escape the very first opportunity. Mr. F. then signified his wish that Euterpe would receive company as usual, hoping thereby to divert her melancholy, and be the means of giving a happy turn to her mind which he perceived was very much agitated. Cards of invitation were accordingly sent to all her friends as usual, except Lady Elizabeth, and her ladyship's friends; many persons of distinction came as usual, and congratulated her on her return once more to her father's, some of whom talked to her very seriously upon the subject; she received their advice with humility, but nothing could alter her sentiments, she only watched for the favorable moment, to put into practice the

plan she had laid for her future mode of life. With this intention, she invited some of her friends to dine with her the next day, which gave infinite pleasure to her father, and to Mr. A. her *new* lover, who was also to be of the party.--The hall-door was no longer barricadoed, the servants were all occupied in making the necessary preparations for the occasion, and as it was likewise a rainy day, all suspicion was asleep ; when, concealing her cloak under her gown, she ventured to sally forth, and ran very fast till she found the door of a chandler's shop open, in which she took shelter. No bird that has got loose from his cage, ever fluttered with more delight than did the now happy Euterpe ! she ordered a chair to be called, (giving the shopman a *crown* for his trouble) and instantly getting into it, she drew the curtains close, and bade the chairman carry the chair backwards as if it was empty, for which she promised them half-a-guinea ! No sooner was she arrived at Lady Elizabeth Tudor's, where she was received

received with great affection, than her ladyship took her in her own carriage to Kensington, where she was concealed for some time in a private lodging, under another name. From that place she wrote to her father, a most respectful and affectionate letter, in which she, in the most pathetic language, painted her distresses of mind, and lamented that she was driven to the hard necessity of giving so much pain to a parent whom she had so much reason to love with that unbounded affection, which she should ever feel for him while she had life; she expressed the most grateful acknowledgements for the education he had given her, which she hoped would procure her the means of future support.

Euterpe being soon after informed that there had appeared an advertisement in the public papers, stating that she had eloped a second time from her father's house, she was fearful it might be interpreted in a manner detrimental to her character, she therefore felt herself under
the

the necessity of publishing her reasons why she was induced to take that step, in a letter to the Earl of Guernsey.—The public seemed to interest themselves more than is usual in cases of domestic concern, for there was sold near five hundred pamphlets in the space of five or six days.—Parties were formed to espouse her cause, by some of the first nobility, whilst there were others who were equally inveterate against her: among the latter were all those who were the most distantly related to the noble Earl. The amiable and ever to be respected Countess, and patroness of Euterpe, *privately* expressed her approbation of Euterpe's conduct, for so she was informed by the Countess of T—e, who also with the Earl of T—e her husband, openly espoused her cause, and received her at their house, in the most friendly manner. The Countess of G. not only in secret approved of the step Euterpe had taken, but lamented that it was no longer in her power to serve and protect her. This is a strong proof

proof that the good old Countess dared not act in any thing contrary to her husband's will; or is it to be supposed that, after she had declared in the most affectionate manner, that she would ever be the steadfast friend of Euterpe, if she kept herself innocent, the amiable Countess would have forsaken her because she quitted her father's house to preserve her innocence! But the subtle peer, whose love was now turned to hatred, endeavoured to poison the minds of many against her, by a false representation of her conduct; and even ventured to throw out insinuations detrimental to her honour, as foul as they were unjust! The Earl however gained but little credit, for what he had advanced, as it is no uncommon thing for a *disappointed* lover to become a bitter enemy.—Euterpe was now determined to put her scheme in execution, of exerting those talents for her advantage in public, for which she had met with so much applause in the circle of her friends in private. With this intention,

intention, she paid a visit to her friend Mrs. Stately, whom she found in deep mourning, for the loss of her husband, and therefore unable to serve her, as she saw but little company. She seemed, indeed, very much shocked at the idea of Euterpe's appearing in public! She said every thing in her power to persuade her to make terms with her father, and return to his house; but finding her arguments of no avail, she advised her to go to the Countess of — to whom she had already introduced her, who visited, as Mrs. Stately observed, half the town, and had it greatly in her power to serve her. Euterpe then waited upon the Countess of — who had often expressed great admiration of Euterpe, and was received in the most polite manner by her ladyship, who introduced her to the Earl her husband, by whom she was highly complimented. He was pleased to say, that there were but very few young women who would have had the prudence and fortitude to have resisted *such* proposals as

were

were offered her by the Earl of Guernsey; and, in the most friendly manner, bid her look upon their house as her home.—Euterpe could not find words to express the grateful feelings of her heart! She then mentioned to them her intentions of throwing herself on the public for her future support. This, they totally disapproved; they would not so much as listen to such an idea, saying, that she had no occasion to do it, as they would receive her as if she were a daughter of their own. Tears of gratitude was all she had to return, for her tongue refused to utter the effusions of her heart. The Countess perceiving Euterpe was preparing to take her leave, tenderly embraced her, and insisted upon it that she should stay to dinner, calling her, her sweet girl. After dinner, she returned to Lady Elizabeth Tudor's, where she was then *en famille*, and repeated to them the kind and generous offers that were made her by the Earl and Countess of —, but declared it as her fixed resolution not to intrude herself in

that manner upon any of her friends : besides, she did not, she observed, know what constructions might be put on her conduct, if she did not manifestly make it appear to the world in *what* manner she was supported ! These reasons were highly approved by Mr. Tudor and his lady, who had been the first to make her the same generous offer of their house and purse ; but they knew her delicacy too well to think of endeavouring to alter her determination of appearing in public, although it gave them infinite pain.

CHAP. XX.

EUTERPE HIRES THE OPERA-HOUSE FOR THREE NIGHTS, IS ATTENDED BY A MOST EXCELLENT BAND OF THE FIRST PERFORMERS; IS IN DANGER OF BEING CARRIED OFF BY FIELDING'S PEOPLE, AT THE INSTIGATION OF HER FATHER, WHO THINKS HIMSELF DISHONoured BY HIS DAUGHTER'S PUBLIC APPEARANCE. H. R. H. P. E. SHEWS HER A MARKED ATTENTION.

IT is in adversity only that we can be assured whom are our *real* friends ! and Euterpe had the good fortune to find that the *motives* which had induced her to sue for public protection, had gained her an uncommon number. The public were astonished ! It was thought almost incredible that so young a girl should have had the prudence and even fortitude to have withstood so many temptations which had been presented to her view. If ever vir-

tue

tue and innocence claimed protection, surely this was the time, the public thought so, and gave the most convincing proofs that they approved her conduct, by their readiness to serve her. As soon as she had fixed upon her future plan, she again waited upon the Countess of —, who still continued to disapprove of her scheme of appearing in public; but, said her Ladyship, if you are really determined, Euterpe, I will assist you to the utmost of my power; therefore tell me in what manner you intend to proceed?—“ My plan, Madam, replied Euterpe, is to hire the little Opera house for three nights only, and a band of the very best musicians in town, when I will perform myself upon four different instruments, and sing some English and Italian airs; but I do not intend to have any vocal performer.—I am advised to have no Ticket under half-a-guinea, which will of course conduct those who honour me with their presence, to any part of the house, as gallery and boxes will be

“ put

" put at equal price, for which reason I
" have ordered a thousand Tickets to be
" printed."—" Well done, said her Lady-
" ship, why Euterpe, you intend then to
" make a fortune in three nights, that is
" singing to some tune by G—!" Her
Ladyship's coarse wit was but ill relished
by Euterpe, yet she could not but feel
the utmost gratitude for the interest she
took in her welfare. As soon as the
Tickets were ready, the Countess took
Euterpe with her to make a round of
visits, when she introduced her under the
title of *her little beggar*; the consequence
was, Euterpe sold her tickets well, for
she seldom had less than five guineas, and
often twenty, for a single ticket! at the
Viscountess F's. Lord B.—h gave her twen-
ty guineas for a Ticket; and Lady F. and
her Lord, twenty more, so that she had
forty guineas given her on a first morn-
ings visit! which made the Countess of —
say, that Euterpe played a *sure* game, and
wished she herself could play *her* cards
half so well; at the end of the three
nights

nights performance, she was a gainer of fifteen hundred pounds. But the first night of her appearance was the most dreadful to Euterpe she had ever known; it seemed to her like going to an execution, and she was very near fainting away twice; and to add to her terror of mind, some one was so imprudent as to inform her that Fielding's people were endeavouring to enter the house to put a stop, by her father's interference, to her performance. The agitation of her mind was so great, that her friends began to be seriously alarmed for her. Fielding's men, however, were soon dispersed, upon Lord T. who was an officer of the guards, threatening to send for a party of soldiers, if they offered to disturb the house, in which was one of the Royal Family, and many persons of the first rank. Prince E. who was so very attentive and polite to Euterpe as to be one of her auditors, though the K. went that night to the comedy. His Royal Highness took infinite pains to shew Euterpe he was not offended

at

at her refusing to go to Mrs. J.'s, and after doing her the high honour of taking a cup of tea with her in the green-room, he had the goodness to hand her down to the entrance door of the stage, on which she took her seat, when she was received with bursts of applause, and with all that tender indulgence which a generous public is ever ready to shew the humble suitor for its patronage and protection.

Euterpe was become so great a favourite with the Countess of — that she was always one of her Ladyship's party. But though Euterpe felt the utmost gratitude for the many marks of favour with which she honoured her, yet, she never was perfectly easy in her Ladyship's company ; as her conversation was often of the grossest kind, and *that* in the presence of her own footmen ! It is strange to think that any woman of fashion and education should so debase themselves as to utter *such* expressions as one would scarce imagine could come from the mouth of a female, above the degree of a soldier's trull !

trull! But to such odious lengths did her Ladyship carry this style of conversation, that she would sometimes launch such filthy expressions as decency forbids us to repeat! As the following anecdote is rather laughable, we cannot refrain from giving it as a little specimen of that familiarity which subsisted betwixt herself and her servant. Her Ladyship having rung the bell, she ordered the footman to tell Bridget (who was her waiting woman) to come to her; but as Bridget did not appear, the bell was rung a second time, when the footman was asked why Bridget did not come? The man replied that *she would not come!*—“ Tell me, Tom,” said the Countess, “ I insist upon it, what did she say?”—“ She said, my Lady, she would not come.—“ Then,” said her Ladyship, “ go tell the b--h she shall come.” The servant returned and told his Lady, that Mrs. Bridget persisted in it, that she would not come! “ What did she say, Tom, tell me exactly?”—“ Why, my Lady,” (here Tom paused, and scratching his head)

head endeavoured to retire, but his Lady insisted upon it, that he should speak out,) “ why then, my Lady, since you will have it, she said, go tell the B---h, your mis-tress, *I will not come !!* ” Her Ladyship only laughed heartily at the sauciness of her pert Abigail !! We are very sorry to observe, that this is not a singular instance of the astonishing depravity and want of delicacy in some ladies of very high rank ; three ladies of quality who used frequently to visit Lady — seemed to take a peculiar pleasure in talking *obscenely* in the presence of Euterpe, taking delight at beholding her confusion, and then setting up a horse-laugh ! We know another lady, lately dead, of very high birth, that used not only to talk, but *act* in such a manner as to shock even men, who were eye-witness to that *franchise* with which her Ladyship would often indulge herself before company while they were sitting round the table after dinner or supper. An amiable woman who is still alive, and was this Lady’s confident, venturing sometimes to

reprove her Ladyship for talking and acting with so little decorum, before her elegant and lovely daughters, she only laughed and bid her hold her nonsense! What an example to four or five innocent young girls! What do such mothers deserve! We have seen this very woman come in to breakfast, in the presence of two or three men servants, with nothing on but her shift and under-coat, and only a very narrow tucker to cover one of the largest bosoms we ever saw! We give this as one instance, that a woman, as we have mentioned in a former chapter, may be *chaste* who is not *virtuous*! for no one ever so much as whispered that she was ever guilty of infidelity to her husband, yet she was lost to modesty and every sentiment of delicacy.

C H A P. XXI.

SERIOUS REFLECTIONS. STORY OF A
YOUNG TYGER DEVOURING A BOY.
THE FIRST INSTITUTION OF NOBILITY
IN ORDER TO PROMOTE VIRTUE. THE
REAL ORIGIN OF THE NOBLE ORDER
OF THE GARTER.

THE preceding anecdotes would almost persuade one to conclude, that EDUCATION, however it may influence the manners and give that graceful polish to the exterior, which is so irresistably captivating, that it steals on the heart before we have time to guard ourselves against the beautiful deception, seems but little able to alter the *real* nature and disposition with which we are born! From various instances, we may venture to form an opinion, *que l'homme est né comme il est*, and that education is as necessary to conceal the natural defects of the mind, as

A a 2 cloathing

cloathing is to hide personal deformity. To support our hypothesis, we shall quote a celebrated author, who thus expresses himself on this subject!

“ Le peuple se montre tel qu'il est, n'est pas aimable;
 “ Mais il faut bien que les gens du monde se degui-
 “ sent,
 “ S'ils se montroient tels qu'ils sont, ils feroient hor-
 “ reur.”

Reason and philosophy may, it is true, influence our actions, but our *innate* disposition will always remain such as we imbibed with our *primitive* existence. The mental faculties may certainly be improved by art and study, but the *heart*, the seat of every passion, seems totally dependent on itself, even REASON is obliged too often to submit to its decrees. The heart thus possessing such strong and natural powers, quits not easily its own prerogative, and is never totally subdued either in the cause of virtue or vice without some difficulty. But we know a dignified character of a superior worth, whose head and heart:

heart does the highest honour to humanity, who differed widely from us with respect to the above hypothesis, it being his opinion, which seems to coincide with LOCKE, that every man is born immaculate, or with a mind equally disposed to receive either good or bad impressions, and that it is bad education and examples that is solely the reason of his falling into those vicious habits which must of course tend to contaminate his mind: if so, how then is it to be accounted for, that two children born of the same parents, brought up together, educated in the same manner, both having the same advantages of example and precepts should so widely differ as to form a perfect contrast to each other as to temper, disposition, taste, manners, &c.? Does not this favour *our* hypothesis? Have we not seen those who have been brought up in the most virtuous manner, turn out infamously bad, whilst others who have been early trained in habits of intimacy with persons whose morals were corrupt, and whose examples were dangerous

dangerous to innocence, escape uncontaminated? What other reason then can be assigned, but in *both* cases the *natural* disposition was not to be changed? A lion or tyger is to be *tamed*, but its fierce disposition can never be altered, nor can any thing save its master, friend, and benefactor, from its voracious appetite when once it has *tasted* of his blood! As a most melancholy instance of the *natural* propensity of these animals to thirst after human blood, we will relate the following well-known fact, which happened some years ago on board the ship which was commanded by Admiral Medley. One of the officers had brought up a young tyger to be so tame that it went about the ship at full liberty; was caressed and played with by all the ship's crew, without any one having the least idea of danger, and it even suffered the children to get upon its back; but behold, a little negro boy belonging to the captain, who used to feed it, and let it lie on the bed with him, happened, by some accident, to scratch his hand,

hand, and while he was playing with the creature, it happened in *fondly* licking his hand, to *taste* his blood, and immediately devoured him! and before the person who was witness to this dreadful accident could go and alarm any one in the ship, there was nothing left of the poor unfortunate negro but his head, with which the animal was amusing itself, in sight of the astonished and terrified spectators! Thus it is with the human species, where *natural* propensities will sooner or later betray themselves. Reason may teach a man to govern or even to conceal it, but his nature and innate inclinations will continue the same, though they may only discover them perhaps, when he from passion is off his guard, or is intoxicated with drink; which, no doubt, has given rise to a well known proverb, "that a man is best known in his cups." It might be naturally concluded from the foregoing specimens of certain noble personages, that people of high rank are infinitely worse than those of inferior stations; but we do

do not wish to insinuate such an idea, as *natural* disposition, and propensities to either virtue or vice, have nothing to do with either high or low birth: one might as well imagine that it was in the power of a star and ribband to metamorphose a scrub into a man of worth and honour; no, nature has dealt the same with them as with others, for God has made no kind of difference as to our *entrance* into the world or our *exit* out of it, as all mankind are made of the same materials, and are equally subject to death and the grave. But persons of high rank being accustomed to flattery and adulation, as well as to be approached with the most respectful awe by a train of dependants and interested sycophants; they really begin to think themselves sometimes of a superior cast to the rest of their fellow creatures! (we speak only of those nobles, who possess but a *weak* understanding) for the more *deficient* a human creature is in his intellects, the more arrogant and self-conceited he grows; being puffed up with self importance,

tance, and forgetful that, however high in honours, titles and fortune they may be, the day cannot be far off, when no eye will be able to discover the mouldring body of a Prince from that of his menial servant! Such, therefore, do not think it at all incumbent on them to take any pains to *conceal* those inclinations and propensities to vice and folly which more servile and vulgar minds would blush to discover, but *such* personages ought to be reminded of one truth, which they cannot be ignorant of, however unwilling they may be to own it; that the only superiority that one individual can have over another, consists in superior TALENTS, SENSE and VIRTUE! These are the rich gifts that man has received from his Creator: while titles, birth and fortune, are the offspring of chance, industry or policy; and add nothing to the *intrinsic* value of a man. True nobility consists in endeavouring, by example and precept, to extenuate VICE and promote VIRTUE; to be above doing a base and dishonourable

action; to alleviate the sorrows of such of their fellow creatures whom fortune has not befriended, and to stretch out the hand of benevolence, and liberally reward indigent merit wherever it be found. Such a **SUPERIORITY** is the true genuine stamp of real nobility, which equally despairs prodigality and avarice; denies from its presence the infamous panders of debauchery and dissipation; and while it maintains the dignity belonging to its character, does not insult poverty with the gaudy splendour of useless ostentation. It is not to be disputed, that every man's *real* worth is centered within himself; he neither can receive additional lustre from external ornaments, titles and riches, or lose his *intrinsic* value by rags and poverty; but in the eye of the ignorant multitude, who are too apt to suffer their minds to be biased by the outward and generally *false* appearances of things, and who do not consider, that to see things as they *appear*, and as they *really are*, require very different optics! To form our judgment

of

of a man's interior worth from, and to respect and esteem him for, his *exterior* appearance, is just as absurd as if we were to take a liking and attach ourselves to the fellow who grinds the organ about the streets, because our ears are delighted with the melodious sounds which he produces from its exquisite mechanism! But nothing is more true than what we are going to observe, which is,—we suffer our judgment to be too often biased and, by that means, imposed upon, by those objects which, at the first glance, strike the mind with veneration and awe, but, upon a nearer view lose their *supposed* value, when their intrinsic merits are minutely examined. Such influence have great names over the minds of the vulgar, that they cannot quickly forego the notion that greatness of soul and every virtue that can adorn humanity are annexed to them. It is therefore necessary for the benefit of individuals, occasionally to draw aside the veil, and discover to the infatuated spectators the *real* features, such as nature

formed them ; without the aid of those arts which are meant to allure, to captivate and impose on the understanding ! The ill consequences which arise from such deceptions are oftentimes most severely felt by the credulous and undiscriminating part of mankind, who are unacquainted with the *true* characters of those to whom they have been accustomed to look up with reverence, having had no other means by which they could form their opinions, but from the *public* conduct of such persons, either in the senate, the drawing room, in courts of justice, or even in the pulpit. They are well aware, who are seen in such situations, that every eye is fixed upon them, and that they are critically observed. They are, therefore, upon their guard, on these occasions, and studious how to gain popular applause ! It is not then in such situations that the true disposition of a man can be thoroughly known, it must be in private life, when retired among his most intimate friends, where it is probable he may throw aside all dissimulation ;

dissimulation; but more particularly among his dependants, and those who fear his frowns, or have favours to ask, that we can be able to form a true judgment of what he *really is!* But let it not be thought by the above remarks that we mean to intimate that there are not an infinite number of noble personages whose virtues do honour to their exalted stations, and who keep up the true dignity of NOBILITY, by implicitly adhering to those principles which can alone entitle them to the rank they hold! For the institution of nobility, no doubt, was originally designed as an encouragement to VIRTUE, to reward great TALENTS and VALOUR IN WAR! To *distinguish* such who were thus signalized by nature, it was thought necessary to grant them TITLES; and as a further mark of public approbation, badges of distinction were intended as a visible mark of the good qualities they possessed, which might appear conspicuous to the surrounding multitude, who were thus taught to distinguish, among their

their brethren, the truly good and great, and likewise to convince them that it was MERIT alone, which can give real distinction. Hence arose those personal badges of merit, which every nation of Europe has adopted: among the first in estimation at this day, is the Order of the Garter! High birth was not then the principal qualification to attain that distinction. Such an exaltation was conferred in consequence of superior worth: at the same time there is no reason, in fact, why the children of such men should be entitled to the same mark of distinction, unless they possessed all those virtues and talents for which their parents were so justly characterized: but to behold a man with a symbol of honour at his breast, who has not perhaps one of those intrinsic good qualities for which his ancestors became ennobled, is really a ridicule and a degradation of nobility; and, of course, is the true cause that the veneration and respect it was wont to inspire, is daily diminishing throughout the globe! nay, is the

the *real* cause, we will venture to affirm, why the minds of men in different nations have been filled with the republican principles! for there is no reason to doubt, if the nobles had never deviated from principles of true honour, and had not neglected those qualifications which alone can constitute *real GREATNESS*, they would of course have been regarded as models to the rest of mankind! But when, even men of mean understandings, perceive (not to mention those of discernment and merit, to whom it must be a bitter reflection) that the very persons to whom they are compelled, through custom and fashion, to bend and humble themselves, are on an equal and oftentimes *inferior* footing with respect to natural endowments, it must, of course, sensibly hurt their feelings, and create that dissatisfaction in their hearts towards a class of people who ought to inspire the lower orders of men with veneration and respect? But let them who wear the STAR be not unmindful that it is (among
hiero-

hieroglyphics) an emblem of prudence, the rule of all VIRTUES! Therefore, if any man wears that badge of honour who does not possess virtue, he is guilty of as palpable a falsehood as a profligate libertine would be if he were by way of deception, to put on the sacred garments of a DIVINE! The CARTER, which is the honourable badge of distinction, which accompanies that of the STAR, the institution of which does not, as it is vulgarly imagined proceed from so trivial a ground as a Lady's Garter, was "Instituted by Edward the Third, from having given his garter as a signal to a very fortunate battle; he therefore incorporated a select number into a fraternity in the year 1350, who being honoured by this mark of distinction, they were called Knights of the Garter, and by this garter they are symbolically put in mind to act by the maxims of GOOD FAITH, SINCERITY, and RELIGION, not to violate the engagements of FRIENDSHIP, the law of ARMS, the PRIVILEGES OF PEACE, or to do any thing contrary

" contrary to articles of PROBITY, HO-
 " NOUR and JUSTICE," so that it is clear
 that these marks of distinction were ori-
 ginally given with an intention to pro-
 mote the cause of VIRTUE, and of course
 to discourage VICE! To boast, therefore,
 of high birth is a folly, unless it be ac-
 companied by the above appendages, and
 then, indeed, it well deserves that homage
 which the nobles themselves are so anxi-
 ous to obtain !

" There are (says that very elegant
 " writer, *Madame de Lambert*) many sorts
 " of greatness, which demand as many
 " kinds of homage; that which is real
 " and personal ought to be held in the
 " *first* estimation. To those who are
 " elevated, and hold places of dignity
 " and honour, great respect is certainly
 " due, but then it is exterior respect
 " only. Sentiment and merit require
 " both esteem as well as respect. But
 " when virtue, talents, fortune and ho-
 " nours have exalted a man, his influ-
 " ence becomes doubly great; therefore

"the respect, esteem and submission, due
"to him, ought to be in proportion."

Among these last mentioned, Britain
can happily boast of a SPENCER, a MOIRA,
a HARRINGTON, and a BELGRAVE, who
we will venture to pronounce, possess
every excellence that can do honour to
NOBILITY, and, above all, to HUMAN
NATURE!

C H A P. XXII.

EUTERPE REFUSES TO ACCEPT OF AN IN-
VITATION FROM LADY SWINDETON.
A SKETCH OF THAT LADY'S CHARAC-
TER.

EUTERPE having procured by her
musical talents and the generosity of
her friends, that sufficiency which would
enable her to pursue her favorite scheme
of retiring into the country, was making
the

the necessary preparations for her quitting town, when she received an invitation from the Countess of — to take up her future abode with her Ladyship. As Euterpe was now possessed of a small independency, she no longer felt her former aversion to accepting her Ladyship's offer, as her pride would not be wounded by the idea of being upon the footing of a dependent; in which character she might have been regarded, if she had been without the competence she now possessed. But as she would now be received as a visitor who rather conferred a favour than received one (as her society had been much sought after in the very first circles on account of her musical talents) it was a temptation she did not feel inclined to resist, though she did not altogether approve of her Ladyship's manners and conversation. Having previously promised her friend, Lady Elizabeth Tudor, to accompany her to Felix Hall, she felt herself under an obligation to keep her promise, particularly, as she had made an

C c 2 offer

offer of standing god-mother to the child of which her friend was then pregnant, and as that event was expected to take place about the middle of the summer, she proposed to go in the autumn to the Countess of —, but an old friend of Euterpe's absolutely set his face against it, well knowing, he said, the Countess's *habits*, which he observed to Mr. Tudor, could not be very advantageous to the character of any young girl, who should be unfortunately fixed upon as a favourite; for the long reigning favourite who was upon the brink of losing her influence had been scouted by the men for some years! But Euterpe's friends found it a very difficult matter to convince her that she could be in the least danger of being *stigmatised* by throwing herself under the patronage of a lady of such high rank and situation; being then too ignorant of the wiles daily practised in the world to have the smallest idea that it was possible to be ruined (for so her friends *termed* it) by a woman, and particularly a woman too of such high quality:

quality : nor could she be made to comprehend all they alledged against her Ladyship, whose only fault she thought was the expressing herself with too indecent a freedom ; which however indecorous and disgraceful, yet she could not conceive it could (as had been *insinuated*) be the cause of injuring her reputation : at all events, she thought if it was deemed improper to live altogether with her Ladyship, that there could be no reason why she should be guilty of so much ingratitude as to leave town, without taking leave of Lady —. She accordingly went and was received with great affection by her, who with the Earl invited Euterpe to go with them to their seat at —. But when Euterpe informed her that she was absolutely engaged to go with Lady Elizabeth Tudor to stand god-mother to her child, the Countess endeavoured to persuade her to procure a proxy, and continued to press her much to accompany them into the country ; at the same time promising to present Euterpe with her picture set

in diamonds, as a token of her great regard. The Lady then embraced her with a degree of tenderness that greatly surprised Euterpe, and made her repent of having listened to any thing that was said against a Lady who manifested so much fondness for her. She then took her leave, upon her promising faithfully to pay her Ladyship a visit as soon as the christening should be over, when the Earl said, if Mr. Tudor would see her half-way, his own coach should meet her on the road. On Euterpe's return home she found a card of invitation from Lady Swindleton, to spend the evening with her, at which Euterpe was not a little surprised, as she had refused to go to her Ladyship's house on a former occasion, as her (*once*) amiable patroness Lady G. had told her it was a very improper house for so young a girl to visit, and gave such strong reasons for it, that Euterpe had determined never to go near her; she, therefore, sent a polite card, and excused herself, as she was preparing to quit town immediately,

immediately, in company with Lady Elizabeth Tudor.

Though this Lady was of a very opposite turn to the Countess of —, yet she was a woman much more to be dreaded and of course avoided, as there was scarcely a vice that she did not possess! The celebrated and highly accomplished Miss — owed her ruin to that profligate woman! Her Ladyship was certainly a very fine woman, and endued with a good understanding, though by no means strong enough to enable her to conquer her unruly passions and disgraceful propensities. Being a woman of very high rank and connected with many of the very first families in the kingdom, she was a principal figure in every fashionable circle, and was a leading character in the world of dissipation. Euterpe's refusal of this Lady's invitation greatly mortified her pride, as she little expected to be refused by one on whom she conceived she was conferring so high an honour! She was not half so angry at Euterpe's *former* refusal, well knowing that

that she was then under the influence of the Countess of G. who never would visit her Ladyship or invite her to any of her parties. Euterpe's reasons for not accepting the last invitation of Lady Swindleton was partly owing to some apprehensions she was under of being brought into trouble, as it was suggested to her by a particular friend, that her Ladyship was well known to practise now and then a little *lèger de main* for her amusement as well as profit; which, if it were detected, might possibly be laid upon an innocent young girl who might be obliged to suffer for her Ladyship's frolic; for who would value even the oath or character of a poor simple girl, let her be ever so virtuous, against the *bare word* of a woman of such high QUALITY. We cannot, however, quit Lady Swindleton without giving one or two specimens of her ingenuity, though she was sometimes foiled, and caught in her own net.—Having been invited to dine with the Dutches of —, where was also the Count de —, ambassador from the

the court of France; his Excellency produced his gold snuff-box, in which was a miniature of the French Queen (confort to Louis XV.) very richly ornamented with diamonds, which immediately caught the eyes of his surrounding fair spectators, and was handed about from one to the other for a considerable time; till at length, his Excellency bethought himself of taking a pinch of snuff; but, behold, the box was not to be found. The Count was, as it may be well supposed, a man of finished breeding, but in spite of all his *politeſſe*, he could not conceal his uneasiness, and said, that though the box cost three hundred pounds, yet it was only for the sake of the miniature it contained of his Royal mistress, that he felt the real anxiety which he expressed. It is easy to conceive the consternation of every one present, and each lady began to repent that she had ever touched the box! The Duchess, who, it seems, was the first that received it from the hands of his Excellency to admire its exquisite workman-

ship, discovered much more uneasiness than any of the other ladies ; considering herself as answerable for the box, she was therefore fully determined to find out, if possible, into whose hands it was fallen : she was not, indeed, without her suspicions of Lady Swindleton, well knowing that her Ladyship had often been remarked for *playing her cards to her own advantage*. She therefore made use of the following stratagem, which prevented any of her visitors from being offended with her Grace's endeavours to find out in whose rich trappings the box was *caught* ! for at that time, it was the fashion to wear an infinity of furbelows, flounces and puffed drapery, which has been often found to be very convenient to catch a brilliant, or any kind of valuable trinket, or even a guinea, which might otherwise have been totally lost ! Nay, Miss — the *protégé* of this very lady, playing at whist once found by *accident* an honour that lay concealed in the plaits of her dress, by which she won the game ; a gentleman
who

who lost a considerable sum by this *manœuvre*, said, that Miss —— had so many bewitching tricks that she was always sure to win her game !

The Dukes, at whose house they were entertained, begged the gentlemen to retire, and her waiting maids were accordingly called in, to help the Ladies to undress. As her Grace herself set the example, no one dared to murmur, and though some of the ladies, who were not afraid of the box being found upon them, knowing their own innocence, did not much like to discover some little arts in dress, which make a woman appear quite a different thing from what she really was ; so that the bolsters, pads, and other little matters, &c. &c. to conceal defects, &c. caused some confusion among the fair groupe, as each of them was obliged to undergo a very strict examination, and every article of dress pried into with the utmost minuteness. But, nevertheless, though sorely vexed, every one joined in their approbation of the method her

D d 2 Grace

Grace had taken to recover so valuable a trinket. Even Lady Swindleton herself was louder than the rest, to acknowledge the justice and prudence of her Grace, and immediately stripped with great alertness, and assisted the maids in minutely searching every plait and fold in her drapery, when nothing was to be found; upon which she seemed more elated than any of the others; but in the very moment of her exultation, behold, she happened to hit the sleeve of her sack against the back of a chair, which making rather a loud report, several of the ladies seized upon it, declaring it was the box which they supposed had slipped into the cuff; but her Ladyship declared that what they heard was nothing else but the leaden weight at the bottom of the sleeve; but it appeared at length, to the great joy of all the half-stript ladies, and the confusion of the Countess, to be the box itself! Lady Swindleton, for that evening, lost much of her usual vivacity. We also recollect two more that do *equal honour* to her Ladyship,

dyship, which, perhaps, are not so publicly known, but are not less true. A young gentleman of rank and fortune, just returned from his travels, was introduced to Lord Swindleton, whose Countess was so struck with the brilliancy of the visitor's buckles, as to beg he would favour her with a nearer view of them, when he politely gave her one for her inspection, which she perceived contained diamonds of great value, and begged that she might keep it till next morning, when she would send early for her jeweller, whom she would order to make her just such another pair; and if he would also leave the other buckle, she would lend him a pair of hers, to wear in the mean time. The gentleman readily complied with her Ladyship's request, and the next morning she sent for her jeweller, and ordered him to make her, as soon as possible, a pair of buckles of the finest paste, to resemble the others in every point; that no one could perceive the least difference. The jeweller promised to make her a pair of
the

the finest composition, and that the nicest eye should not be able to discern the difference : her orders were accordingly executed in a very few days, when she sent them to the gentleman, with many thanks for the use of them. They were so well finished, that he had not any conception of the trick which he had been played ! Some time after, the gentleman proposed to have a pair of paste buckles made after the same model as those he had in diamonds, to wear by candle-light ; for which purpose he went to a jeweller, who happened to be the very same who had been employed by Lady Swindleton, and asked him if he could make a pair of paste buckles, which should display as fine a lustre at candle-light, as those he had in diamonds, at the same time gave him one of his own buckles. The instant the jeweller took it in his hand he said, why sir, *I* made this buckle myself for Lady Swindleton but a few weeks ago, pray have you got the other ? the gentleman, with some surprize, replied, *you* made

made it, surely you do not know what you are saying, for I gave for them, with the flock and knee buckles, no less a sum than five hundred pounds, at Paris! Indeed sir, said the jeweller, you are much deceived in thinking these are real diamonds, for I made them exactly after the model of a pair of diamond buckles, which she gave me for the purpose. Are you willing, said the astonished gentleman, to say this in the presence of that lady? to be sure I will, replied the jeweller, and, without the least hesitation, immediately accompanied the gentleman to her ladyship's house; when, to her utter confusion and mortification, she was obliged to change buckles with the gentleman, who was so irritated, that he took no pains to conceal the transaction. Her ladyship's skill in these matters cannot be wondered at, when we recollect that she began to exercise her ingenuity at a very early period; for, while she was in her teens, she was invited to a very grand breakfast, given by Lady N. P. where,
among

among the many splendid curiosities which graced her Ladyship's fête, were half a dozen most beautiful and costly cups, of very old and valuable china. After the company were gone, Lady N. P. missing these cups, her suspicions immediately fell on the right object, and immediately paid a visit to the young lady's father, whom she accosted in the following manner: "I am come to tell your — that girl "of yours, will be totally ruined, if you "don't correct her, and break her of her "tricks in time; she has possessed herself "of my half dozen cups, which have "been in our family above an hundred "years, and are such as cannot be matched even in China, and I do insist upon "it, that they are immediately sent back, "or I am determined to prosecute her." Though this menace was pronounced with a considerable degree of anger and just resentment, the — for some time endeavoured to laugh it off, as a *childish* trick, and did not, or pretended not, to believe that she was in earnest; but her Ladyship,

dyship seeing him treat the matter so lightly, she was the more enraged, and swore, “*by the living God*, that she was resolved that nothing should prevent her from employing the power of the law “to recover her property !” The consequence was, that the china was sent back the very next morning !

C H A P. XXIII.

SIR WILLIAM BON TON OBLIGED TO GO
ABROAD, THROUGH THE EXTRAVA-
GANCE OF HIS WIFE. REFLECTIONS
UPON HER CONDUCT.

WE will now, for the last time, turn our attention towards the once hospitable mansion of that truly amiable and friendly man, Sir William Bon Ton and his dissipated consort, from whose unbounded extravagance we see him plunged.

ed in ruin, and obliged to visit his estates abroad, in order to replenish his impoverished finances. The many mortifications his Lady suffered at not being able to figure away as she had hitherto done, by which she lost much of her influence in the polite circles, may be easily conceived. The being doomed to experience a reverse of fortune was more than her weak mind was able to support! She felt not the injury she had done her husband, or the loss of his society; no, she felt only for herself, when she found that she was forsaken by those, who paid her the most assiduous court, when she was in affluence, and now rather shunned and avoided her. Thus was this vain, ostentatious woman punished, who, a stranger to sentiment and the finer feelings, lamented only that she was deprived of the means of continuing those riotous pleasures, which must ever end in remorse, shame and disappointment. So true it is, that a mind lost to every virtuous sensation is always bereft of that consolation which

which sooths and comforts a good mind under affliction ! for though virtue may not always meet with its own reward, in this world, but in the sweet contemplation of having done our duty ; yet vice never fails meeting with its punishment, if it were only in those bitter reflections which must of course destroy the inward peace of mind ; and those feelings of remorse with which the soul will be attacked, when at the fatal moment it perceives the cold hand of death uplifted to call it to an account for the pursuit of vain, frivolous and vicious pleasures, in which the mind can never taste any true and solid happiness.

How different were the feelings of Euterpe, exulting in her own innocence, enjoying the happy effects of a good conscience, which was not in the power of her enemies to disturb ! the most inveterate of whom was the noble Earl, who, disappointed and chagrined at his offers having been scouted, endeavoured to insinuate that it was not for the sake of

virtue that she refused his proposal ; but her attachment to Mr. Tudor, under whose protection she had put herself, at the earnest request of his own wife ; and by whose *advice* alone she left her father's house ! Poor mean resentment ! Was it natural for any one to suppose that a young girl, who had proved her virtue to be stronger than her vanity, of which she possessed no small share, should suffer herself to be so deluded, even supposing she had known that Mr. Tudor had felt any particular partiality towards her, as to have listened to a man, where there was no other prospect but ruin and dis-honour ? But even to check the least suspicion how she was supported, she painfully submitted to earn her subsistence by an exertion of those talents which the world had flattered her she possessed ! Indeed, his Lordship's base insinuations were so very inconsistent, that but few were found who gave the least credit to it ! There were, doubtless, many who were glad to have so favourable an occasion to blacken, if

if possible, the character of a young girl who, by their ill natured sarcasms, manifestly proved that she possessed sufficient merit to become the object of their envy! "For," says the Marquis *de Langles*, "he who possesses a mediocrity of talents is the man only who is beloved. We hate the man of abilities, penetration, &c." And, to the disgrace of human nature, there is nothing that the generality of mankind delight in more, than tearing to pieces the characters of others; and vicious characters are not such as are in general attacked, because they do not create envy! This detestable propensity arises from different causes; and often-times from private pique; such was the disappointed Earl's!—Some from envy, not unlikely among some of those young ladies, the rivals of Euterpe, who fickened at the plaudits that she daily received, and at the great notice taken of her by the first people. But the motives to detraction in general seem to arise from another cause: as weak people are apt to imagine,

imagine, that by exaggerating the follies, and discovering the weak side of their neighbours, it will be supposed that they themselves are free from those defects and failings which they so severely condemn in others! "If," as a learned divine observed in the pulpit, "a story be propagated to the disadvantage of another, with what eagerness it is whispered about; but if a man does a good natured and worthy action, how silent they will be upon the subject, or at least, bestow their praise with reluctance; no man's reputation is safe who unfortunately becomes the subject of conversation among these slanderers. He that is guilty of evil-speaking is more dangerous than an assassin, for he that takes away my good name robs me of more than life itself; follow the divine precepts," says he, "of our Saviour, by doing as you would be done unto. Let him only throw the first stone, who is himself free from blame."

A.

As we have given the above from memory, and not verbatim, we have not been able to give the Doctor's sentiment in that fine flow of language, for which he was so justly celebrated. However sad a picture of human nature he has drawn, we are sorry to say, it is but too just a likeness!

" Men that make
" Envy and crooked malice nourishment,
" Dare bite the best."

CHAP. XXIV.

EUTERPE TAKES LEAVE OF MRS. STATELY
 PREVIOUS TO HER DEPARTURE INTO
 THE COUNTRY. MRS. STATELY'S SEN-
 TIMENTS RELATIVE TO THE EDUCA-
 TION OF YOUNG GIRLS. HER CON-
 VERSATION EVINCES INFINITE GOOD-
 NESS OF HEART.

BEFORE Euterpe left town, she went to take leave of her amiable friend, Mrs. Stately, to whom she freely ventured to open her mind; not even concealing the cause she had to disapprove of the conduct of the Countess of ——; indeed, Euterpe was now thoroughly convinced, from what her friends had said, that it would not be prudent to reside with her Ladyship. Mrs. Stately, though she had a great regard for the Countess's family, expressed her approbation of Euterpe's refusing to live with her, and lamented, with

with infinite concern, the depravity of the fashionable world; laying the blame entirely upon the erroneous mode of Education, as their morals, she observed, were seldom or ever attended to at school; that their external appearance and a few frivolous accomplishments in which they were likewise generally very superficial, were regarded as matters of the highest importance, whilst the improvement of their minds were absolutely neglected: but what is still worse, continued that charming woman, is the total neglect of RELIGION! It is true they are generally paraded to church on a Sunday, dressed in their finest trappings, more for the credit of the school, than from any other motive; and this must of course fill their young minds too full of self-conceit and desire of admiration, to admit of a single thought about the solemn business they are going upon: and scarcely do they hear another word of religion, the rest of the week, unless it be running over a few prayers, which they are not taught to understand.

derstand. But as to studying their dispositions, taking pains to examine whether or no they have propensities to any particular vice, giving them lessons of sound morality or exercising their reason, which either lies dormant or is employed in frivolous pursuits, is a matter that few school mistresses are capable of; and those who are, will not be at the pains; thinking they have sufficiently done their duty in employing masters to instruct them in accomplishments, according to the present mode of education. They little consider that all those external advantages which render the person of a young woman so captivating, only tend to corrupt the heart, if the understanding be not at the same time sufficiently cultivated to enable them to make a proper use of those attractions, which otherwise endanger virtue, and often terminate in the final ruin of the possessor. Mrs. Stately then quoted that incomparable writer, *Madame de Beaumont*, whose sentiments so precisely coincided with her own. " In
" forming

" forming the mind to virtue," says *Madame de Beaumont*, " it is absolutely necessary never to separate *religion* and *reason*: " the one must be dependant on the " other; for the support of which, it is " of the highest importance to study the " holy scriptures, which are alone capable " of inspiring us with a just idea of the " ETERNAL BEING, the recompenser of " virtue, and the avenger of *crimes*! But " independant of another life, or its re- " wards or punishments, it is necessary " for our happiness and welfare here, to " follow implicitly the maxims contained " in that divine book." The same writer speaking of the sacred institution of marriage which is performed in the name and by the order of God, " You cannot break " through its laws without being guilty " of *perjury*; as you both swear to ob- " serve, and most solemnly promise ne- " ver to violate them, at the foot of the " Altar." These sentiments of Madame de B. said Mrs. Stately, ought to be written in letters of gold, and put into the

hands of every young girl, previous to her marriage, that she may be impressed with horror at the very name of an *Adul-tress*, which is indisputably a crime of the deepest dye ! But how little is it regarded in this profligate age, and why does this profligacy encrease, more particularly among the higher classes ? It may be thus answered, that viciousness commonly proceeds from IDLENESS, an inordinate disposition, and a total neglect of religion, for religion is indisputably the fundamental basis of every virtue ; and even *deists* must allow that, by observing and adhering to the precepts of JESUS CHRIST, is the *only* sure means we have of making ourselves acceptable to the SUPREME BEING.

The conversation of Mrs. Stately made a deep impression on the mind of Euterpe, who was much affected at the thoughts of leaving this amiable monitor, who was in every point of view far superior to the generality of her sex. That she was absolutely free from foibles, we do not pretend

pretend to say ; but they at least were such, as did not corrupt her heart. The love of admiration certainly predominated in her character ; but she was perfectly well bred and highly accomplished, had taken uncommon pains in the improvement of her mind, and was possessed of literary attainments ; she possessed also a feeling and benevolent heart ; and her conduct to a young woman who was seduced by her husband is a convincing proof of her good sense, as well as of her amiable disposition. The circumstance, as nearly as we can recollect, is as follows : — Miss M—y, a young woman of great beauty, was put to Mrs. ——, a very respectable milliner, who received with her an handsome premium to instruct her in the millinery business ; and to let her be upon a superior footing to the rest of the girls. Mr. Stately happening to call one morning to purchase some laced ruffles, was greatly struck with the charms of Miss M. and laid the following plan to become master of her person.—He ordered

dered lace and other millinery articles to be sent him, to a large amount, to take abroad with him. Mrs. —— being lately brought to bed, was not sufficiently recovered to wait upon Mr. Stately herself, she therefore desired Miss M—y to go in her stead, and ordered two of her girls to accompany Miss M — with the articles. As soon as they were brought, he begged the favour of Miss M. to bring them into the inner apartment, and put them into the portmanteau, in which there was some other things ready packed ; whilst the servants were tying it on to the carriage, he made some pretence to carry her into another apartment, when he shut the door, and immediately hurried her into the chaise ; the post-boys having been previously ordered to drive off with the utmost dispatch, he soon reached the sea coast, when he embarked with his fair prize for the West Indies ! The young lady's situation was truly deplorable ; forced into the arms of a man she never could endure, obliged to live in a part of the world,

world, far removed from every friend she had, and where she was more than once in danger of being poisoned, through the jealousy of a cook who was a black, and had been formerly a favourite of Mr. Stately, by whom he had children when he was last in the island. But in a few years Miss M. was happily released from her very uncomfortable situation by the death of Mr. Stately, who settled upon her two hundred pounds a year, upon condition that she never should marry! or even live with any man! But when she returned to England she met with Mr. V—n, who fell in love with her, and she not being insensible to his merit, their affections were reciprocal; but as she could not marry him without forfeiting her annuity, she went over to Ireland with him, where they lived together undisturbed. Mrs. Stately shewed her many marks of kindness, and also had the goodness to see that her annuity was punctually paid, being above taking advantage of the annexed conditions in her husband's will,

will, which she thought both cruel and unjust. This cannot be fairly said to be an encouragement to vice in Mrs. Stately's as a just allowance certainly was to be made in a case that was confessedly an hard one; and as Miss M—y's character had suffered through no fault of *her own*, she, undoubtedly, was intitled to that indulgence which was due to injured innocence. This conduct of Mrs. Stately, redounds greatly to her honour, for there are but very few women to be found who have the liberality to compassionate or shew the least degree of favour towards any woman, to whom their husbands were attached, though as innocent of giving encouragement to their addresses as Miss M—y. As we have set out with a determination not to spare vice wherever we find it, or be deterred from expressing our indignation of those, however high their rank or exalted their situation, whose conduct deserve censure, it is but just to give merit its due, and endeavour to promote the love of virtue by exhibiting to public

public view, such as were, and are now shining ornaments to the age in which they live. We trust such examples will be a spur to Emulation, and induce the young and amiable female readers, who may honour these pages with their perusal to imitate those virtues and amiable qualities which cannot fail to insure them respect from their own sex, as well as admiration and esteem from the men. As we have, with great truth, held up Mrs. Stately as a character worthy of imitation, but at the same time hinted, that *vanity* was her predominant, and we might add the *only* failing ever laid to her charge, we will explain what kind this vanity was. It was far from being of that frivolous kind, so characteristic of a pert boarding-school Miss, or a smartly tricked out milliner's girl, whose minds are totally absorbed with the idea of making conquests by dint of their tawdry trappings and coquettish airs? No, for though Mrs. S. was very attentive to the neatness and elegance of her dress (for we may in general

be able to form a judgment of a woman's *understanding* as well as *disposition* by her manner of dressing) yet her anxious wish to please and gain applause was founded on matters of much more importance, and more worthy the mind of a rational being. She studied the best authors, and endeavoured to gain a sufficient knowledge of the arts and sciences, to enable her to hold a conversation on the *instructive* topics with men of sense and learning. She never entered into that small talk with which the generality of women entertain their friends, either about their œconomy and domestic management, the cut of a cap or gown, or some such trifles, to fill up that time which is not spent in ridiculing their acquaintance, scandal, or cards; for we have known her sit many hours together in perfect silence, during such tittle-tattle at Bon Ton Hall! She excelled in many of the polite accomplishments, but her chief amusement was reading the most celebrated authors, particularly history, and in studying the mathematis.

thematis. And since nothing can be laid to that Lady's charge but vanity, we wish, for the sake of doing justice to one of the most amiable and most perfect characters we have ever experienced, find out an apology even for *that*; and defend, if possible, a foible from which none of us seem free. We shall, therefore, first set out by observing, as we hinted above, that there are two kinds of vanity; as well as two kinds of pride; but as it is our wish to argue only in favour of that, which is not of the *frivolous* kind, we will hasten to submit our reasons to the impartial and candid readers, who, from *their own feelings*, will be the best able to judge, how far we have succeeded in the defence of *that*, which the bulk of mankind pretend to condemn !

C H A P. XXV.

IN DEFENCE OF VANITY.

WHY is it, that we should be taught to think that vanity is so great a foible? Is it not the parent of every excellence? Is it not a spur to great and noble actions? Is it not the source of almost every virtue? What would become of the arts and sciences, and even commerce would dwindle into nothing, but for the demands which vanity creates? Is it not vanity which excites in us a desire to please and of appearing agreeable to others, by which we contribute to the comfort, the pleasure and happiness of those with whom we are connected? Does it not maintain politeness, good breeding, and even cleanliness itself? SWIFT certainly considered it in that light when in a letter to *Stella*, he says, “*Do not lose your taste for dress.*” If there be

be any who are not vain, it is probably the *base*, the *depraved*, or the *insensible*; for such as possess neither genius, talents, or any requisite to please; they have none of those incitements which **VANITY** inspires; they, therefore, either sink into apathy or have only a propensity to follow the dictates of a brutal or depraved nature! If it be a *weakness*, it is such, however, as we have not found any *great man* free from, either in ancient or modern times; no, not even the most renowned among the philosophers! Who ever betrayed this *weakness* to a greater degree than VOLTAIRE, when crowned at the Theatre at Paris? for he was so intoxicated and overcome by the vociferous plaudits of the people that it actually accelerated his death! And, among the ancients, who was more vain than the great CICERO? He seemed, indeed, conscious of his *weakness*, by the diffidence he discovers, when, in a letter to his friend *Lucius Luceius*, he endeavours to prevail on him to celebrate him in his writings.

For

" For a certain awkward modesty has
 " always restrained me," says he, " from
 " proposing in person what I can with
 " less scruple request at this distance ;"
 and then growing more bold, he even
 ventures to go so far as to say, " I car-
 " neatly intreat you, not to confine your-
 " self to the strictest laws of history, but
 " to give a greater latitude to your en-
 " comiums than possibly you may think
 " my actions can claim ! " This plainly
 shews how strongly perfections and de-
 fects are blended in the composition of
 man ; for though almost every one pos-
 sesses this foible (if it be one) few are so
 bold, and so candid as to *own* it ! But
 what is vanity more than an emulation to
 excel, which is not only laudable in itself,
 but is certainly *natural* to a generous and
 noble mind. Much more might be said
 in justification of this predominant pas-
 sion, which is the source of all our hap-
 piness, though frequently also of our
 misery : but GOOD and EVIL follow so
 closely at the heels of each other, that we
 scarcely

scarcely know precisely where to draw the line which separates them! But as no passion whatever to which the human mind is subject, is given us in vain, we must of course conclude, that it is the *good or bad use* we make of them, that is the sole cause of good or evil arising from them! The best things which the Supreme Being has given us, may, by our own intemperate indulgence of them, be productive of the most pernicious effects; and, on the contrary, the most deadly poison, when administered by a skillful hand, may become salutary and efficacious. We must not omit to mention the vanity likewise of ROUSSEAU; after a long list of encomiums on himself, truly disgusting, he ends thus: "Voltaire, whom
 " I prevent from sleeping, will parody
 " these lines; his gross injuries are an
 " homage which he is bound to render
 " me in spite of himself!" Now if this selfsame vanity is a defect and a weakness, let the women in particular who are so much censured for it, find the courage,

not

nor be any longer ashamed of *that* having been laid to their charge, from which the most learned and wisest philosophers are not wholly exempt.

As we have already mentioned that there are also two kinds of PRIDE, as much might be said upon that subject as of vanity; each being too often spoken of indiscriminately, without properly observing that a virtuous pride and a wrong-headed or foolish pride are as diametrically opposite to each other as vice and virtue, or as a frivolous and self-conceited vanity, arising from a narrow mind, is to the noble and laudable emulation to excel. A wrongheaded pride may be fully called a *mania*; for physicians acknowledge that above half the maniacs lose their reason through an intolerable rank pride. We shall, therefore, style all the ill qualities that may proceed from such a sort of pride under the appellation of a *mania*; for instance, the insolent over-bearing pride of those who have no other merit whatever to recommend them but what is called

called *high birth*; who think every individual that has not rank, creatures beneath their notice, are all *maniacs*. Those who possess immense riches and arrogantly look down on such who are poor and unfortunate, are *maniacs*. With these two sets of maniacs above mentioned, neither learning, virtue, talents, accomplishments, or any good quality whatever have the least degree of merit; if not accompanied by either high birth or fortune. Stevens, on his Lecture on Heads, exhibited one which he observed was the head of a *proud man*; "All heads," said the wit, "in this predicament, are un-
" found. This man was rich, and as
" wealth is a hot bed to raise flatterers,
" he had enough of them."

But it would take up too much time to enumerate the number of maniacs of this kind. It is needless to give a definition of a virtuous pride, as it must of course be productive of qualities of a contrary nature. It is sufficient to observe, that the former degrades and lowers humanity,

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while the latter is such as redounds to their honour, who, by practising every virtue, maintain the real dignity of human nature !

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

ERRATA. VOL. I.

Dedication.—Page xi. line 4th from the bottom,
for *last* read *leaf*.

Page 47—line 15 for *hoop the* read *hoop her*.
53—line 16 for *designed* read *designed*.
55—line 7 for *Mr. L* read *Mrs. L*.
79—lines 15 and 16 for *other things* read *their
Jumenta*.
194—line 5 from the bottom, read *Euterpe
having procured*.
220—line 10 for *disposition* read *dissipation*.